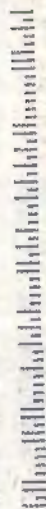


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VOL. 24 NO. 23 NOVEMBER 23, 1996

OUT OF REACH

Packers come up short again to Cowboys



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GREEN BAY PACKERS

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Packer Report

November 23, 1996

ON THE COVER

Packers wide receiver Desmond Howard can't quite reach a pass thrown by Brett Favre during Green Bay's 21-6 loss to the Dallas Cowboys Monday night at Texas Stadium. For more, see pages 4-8.

Cover photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Skid continues 5

Chris Boniol tied an NFL record by kicking seven field goals as the Dallas Cowboys won their seventh straight game over the Packers, 21-6, at Texas Stadium.

McCarren 7

The Packers lost again to the Cowboys, but all that means is Green Bay simply didn't have its best to beat the best.

Levens 10-11

Dorsey Levens, once a starter at fullback, is now a backup to William Henderson and Edgar Bennett in the backfield and having his best year ever.

Opportunities 13

With starting receivers Robert Brooks, Antonio Freeman and Mark Chmura out with injuries, the Packers will rely on their reserves down the homestretch this year.

Poster 19-20

Photographer Mark A. Wallenfang features safety Mike Prior during a game this season.

Rams next 28-30

After starting the 1995 season with a 5-1 record, the St. Louis Rams, Green Bay's opponent this Sunday night, have lost 16 of their last 21 games and are 3-8 this year.

STAFF

General Manager:

John Weishar

Editor:

Todd Korth

Assistant Editor:

W. Keith Roerdink

Featured Columnists:

Art Daley

Larry McCarren

Ray Nitschke

Lee Rummel

Barry Shuck

Advertising Sales:

Ron Royle

Contributing Writers:

Todd Korth

David Marran

W. Keith Roerdink

Graphics design/Production:

Jane Krueck

Photographers:

James V. Biever

Vernon J. Biever

Allen Fredrickson

Dave Fredrickson

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To enter, write your name, address, phone number and answer on a postcard and send to: *Packer Report*, "Trivia contest," 1317 Lombardi Access Road, Green Bay, WI 54304. Here's the question:

Who did the Packers trade to obtain Carroll Dale from the L.A. Rams in 1965?

Answer to Nov. 2 question on page 17.

Cowboys still the team to beat

Packers need to regroup, get back on winning track

You have to give credit to the Dallas Cowboys. They dominated the Packers most of the game, took away Green Bay's wide receivers and hurt the Packers offense. The result was another disappointing loss, 21-6, in Texas Stadium.

The Cowboys controlled the game early and did the things that they had to do to win. The Packers couldn't get anything going on offense and couldn't come up with the big plays. That's what you have to do to win games like this. Green Bay just didn't have the firepower on Monday night to do that.

Brett Favre faced pressure from Dallas' front line and it seemed like it disrupted his rhythm. Meanwhile, Dallas controlled the tempo of the game from the start by getting out to a 15-0 lead.

If it wasn't for Green Bay's defense to keep Dallas from scoring touchdowns, it would have been a major blowout. You have to give the Packers' defense credit for limiting the Cowboys to seven field goals.

The Cowboys are still the champions. The Packers went into Texas Stadium trying to break their losing streak but came away empty-handed again. Dallas just outplayed the Packers. They came up with big plays on offense while the Packers didn't. Brett did a few things at the end of game to prevent a shutout, but if anything, the Packers couldn't get any turnovers. They haven't gotten any in three straight games now. Monday night, they just met a team that knows how to win. They play like champions.

Green Bay was playing without three starting receivers - Robert Brooks, Antonio Freeman and Mark Chmura - but Dallas had players out with injuries, too. The Cowboys have been without tight end Jay Novacek this season and recently lost defensive end Charles Haley and safety Brock Marion. Yet they have guys who want to win and know how to win.



Ray Nitschke

Featured columnist

You've got to take your hat off to them - the Letts, the Aikmans, the Smiths. That's why they've been champions three of the last four years. They have an offensive line that has played together for a long time. They showed character. That's why they've won championships three of the last four years. They're still the team to beat. The Packers just can't seem to get over that hurdle.

Hopefully we'll see them again in January. I certainly haven't lost confidence in the Packers. They just have to get back to winning again. A good place to start will be this Sunday night (7 p.m. Central time) at St. Louis.

There's still a lot of football left and a lot of good football left. Green Bay has to take this loss and learn from it, like they do from all defeats.

Right now every game is a very important game. They can't afford to go down to St. Louis and have a bad game. The Rams scored a lot of points against Atlanta and have displayed some offensive weapons. The next five weeks will tell a lot about our football team. We can't afford to have any letdowns.

All teams have problems, so the Packers can't let injuries to their wide receivers get them down. You can't dwell on it, and instead, get back in the winning way.

CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

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SCORING SUMMARY

Green Bay Packers	0	0	0	6	6
Dallas Cowboys	6	9	0	6	21
Cowboys, 1, 11:22, Boniol 45-yard field goal (6-40, 2:39) 0-3					
Cowboys, 1, 4:47, Boniol 37-yard field goal (6-50, 1:49) 0-6					
Cowboys, 2, 14:01, Boniol 42-yard field goal (9-35, 3:34) 0-9					
Cowboys, 2, 6:30, Boniol 45-yard field goal (8-25, 4:15) 0-12					
Cowboys, 2, 0:07, Boniol 35-yard field goal (13-63, 4:59) 0-15					
Cowboys, 4, 8:36, Boniol 39-yard field goal (12-55, 7:14) 0-18					
Packers, 4, 1:53, Mayes 3-yard pass from Favre (two-pt. attempt failed) (8-66, 1:35) 6-18					
Cowboys, 4, 0:20, Boniol 28-yard field goal (5-26, 1:33) 6-21					
Attendance: 65,032; time: 3:04					
Weather: Clear skies, temperature 55, humidity 69, wind S 6 mph					

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Packers	Cowboys
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	15	16
By Rushing	6	4
By Passing	9	9
By Penalty	0	3
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	4-15-27%	6-16-38%
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	2-3-67%	0-0-0%
TOTAL NET YARDS	254	317
Total Offensive Plays (inc. time thrown passing)	62	64
Average gain per offensive play	4.1	5.0
NET YARDS RUSHING	90	112
Total Rushing Plays	21	28
Average gain per rushing play	4.3	4.0
NET YARDS PASSING	164	205
Times thrown — yards lost attempting to pass	4-30	1-1
Gross yards passing	194	206
PASS ATTEMPTS-COMPLETIONS-HAD INT.	37-21-0	35-24-0
Average gain per pass play (inc. # thrown passing)	4.0	5.7
KICKOFFS-In End Zone-Touchbacks	2-0-0	8-0-0
PUNTS Number and Average	7-44.9	4-45
Had Blocked	0	0
PGs-PATs Had Blocked	0-0	0-0
TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE (Not Including Kickoffs)	14	50
No. and Yards Punt Returns	3-14	6-50
No. and Yards Kickoff Returns	8-155	0-0
No. and Yards Interception Returns	0-0	0-0
PENALTIES Number and Yards	6-28	5-25
FUMBLES Number and Lost	1-0	2-0
TOUCHDOWNS	1	0
Rushing	0	0
Passing	1	0
EXTRA POINTS Made-Attempts	0-1	0-0
FIELD GOALS Made-Attempts	0-1	7-7
SAFETIES	0	0
FINAL SCORE	6	21
TIME OF POSSESSION	27:01	32:59

GREEN BAY PACKERS

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Bennett	8	48	6.0	15	0
Levens	9	26	2.9	6	0
Favre	3	14	4.7	7	0
Henderson	1	2	2.0	2	0

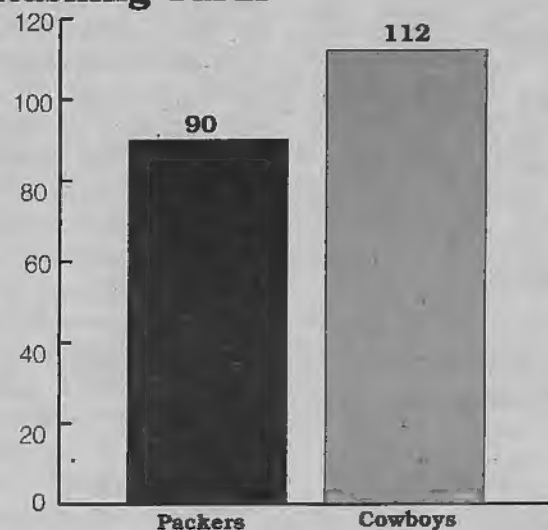
PASSING	Att.	Com.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Favre	37	21	194	4	30	1	25	0

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Jackson	7	98	25	0
Mickens	5	38	19	0
Levens	3	21	12	0
Bennett	2	5	5	0
Thomason	1	16	16	0
Beebe	1	10	10	0
Henderson	1	3	3	0
Mayes	1	3	3	1

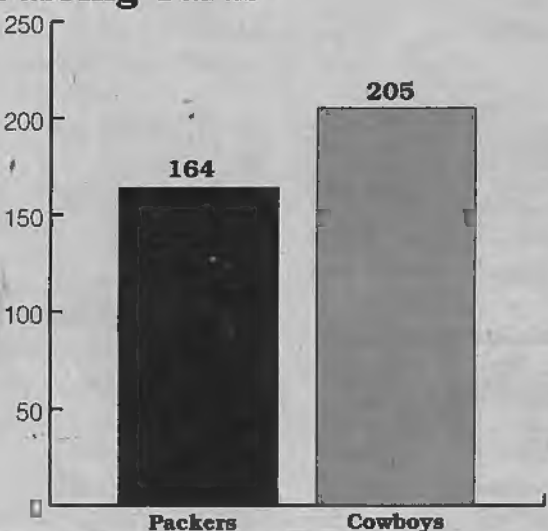
PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Hentrich	7	314	44.9	0	1	55

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Howard	3	1	14	6	0

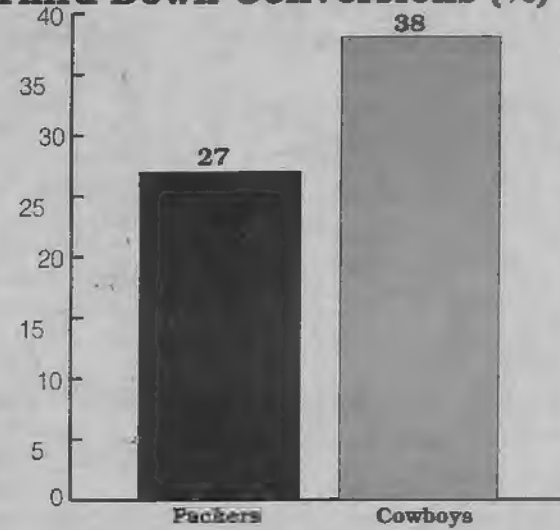
Rushing Yards



Passing Yards



Third Down Conversions (%)



Time of Possession



KICKOFF RETURNS

	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Howard	6	0	120	24	0
Thomason	1	0	20	20	0
Henderson	1	0	15	15	0

DALLAS COWBOYS

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Smith	20	76	3.8	25	0
Williams	4	29	7.3	20	0
Johnston	3	9	3.0	4	0
Aikman	1	-2	-2.0	-2	0

PASSING	Att.	Com.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Aikman	35	24	206	1	1	0	31	0

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Smith	6	16	8	0
Irvin	5	66	31	0
Johnston	4	18	7	0
Williams	3	47	31	0
Bjornson	3	40	25	0
Sanders	2	14	11	0
Martin	1	5	5	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	G
Jett	4	180	45.0	0	2	49

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Martin	6	0	50	18	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Johnston	0	0	0	0	0

GREEN BAY PACKERS

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Evans	7	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Newsome	6	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Koonce	5	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Simmons	4	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Butler	4	1	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Robinson	4	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Williams	4	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Wilkins	2	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Brown	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
White	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Cox	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Dotson	2	0	1.0	1.0	0	0	0
Robinson	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

DALLAS COWBOYS

	T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR
Strickland	3	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Teague	5	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Smith	3	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Woodson	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Casillas	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Godfrey	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Harper	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Hennings	3	0	1.0	1.0	0	0	0
Sanders	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Schwartz	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Tolbert	3	0	1.0	4.0	0	1	0
Carver	2	0	1.0	9.0	0	1	0
Thomas	2	0	1.0	16.0	0	0	0
Williams	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

Pack gets the boot

Boniol ties NFL record with seven field goals to lift Cowboys

By Todd Korth

IRVING, Texas — The Green Bay Packers contained Michael Irvin and limited Troy Aikman, but there wasn't much they could do about Chris Boniol.

Boniol set a Cowboys team record and tied an NFL record set by Jim Bakken and Rich Karlis by booting seven field goals as Dallas extended its winning streak to seven games over the Packers in Texas Stadium with a 21-6 victory before 65,032 fans and a national television audience on Monday night.

Boniol tied the Cowboys record with a 39-yard field goal midway through the fourth quarter. His final field goal — a 28-yarder with 20 seconds left — ignited Reggie White, Wayne Simmons and other Packers, who walked toward the Cowboys bench screaming at coach Barry Switzer and his players for running up the score. Both benches cleared and fights broke out after the Cowboys ensuing kickoff and two players were ejected.

All Switzer wanted to do was give his kicker a chance at an NFL record.

"They (the Packers) didn't know about the record," Switzer said. "Nobody knew why we were doing it. I wouldn't have known if our kicking coach (Steve Hoffman) hadn't told me. They were insignificant points, but nobody knew about the record."

Aikman and Irvin have burned the Packers in the previous six losses to the Cowboys, but this time, it was the Cowboys' top-ranked defense behind cornerbacks Deion Sanders and Kevin Smith that prevented quarterback Brett Favre from getting into any kind of rhythm.

Favre's 3-yard touchdown pass to Derrick Mayes with 1:53 remaining prevented the Packers from going scoreless for the first time since Oct. 17, 1991, when they lost 10-0 to the Chicago Bears. The loss was Green Bay's eighth straight overall to Dallas.

"Their corners are very good," said Packers coach Mike Holmgren, "and Deion is probably the best. We tried to run it a little bit early. We had some penalty problems there. They're a good team and we can't make the mistakes like we made."

Green Bay, playing without three starting receivers (Robert Brooks, Antonio Freeman and Mark Chmura) because of injuries, had little firepower, 10 months after losing 38-27 to the Cowboys in the NFC Championship Game here. The six



Chris Boniol kicked an NFL-record tying seven field goals.

Cowboys 21 Packers 6

penalties committed by Green Bay always seemed to come just when the team was getting in sync.

"I can't really say they did anything to bottle us up," said tight end Keith Jackson. "We just did things in spurts to mess ourselves up. Every guy on the team took an individual turn at making a mistake."

Favre was held to 194 yards passing, most of which came on Green Bay's 66-yard scoring drive at the end of the game.

Despite the loss, Green Bay (8-3) still has a two-game lead over the Minnesota Vikings in the Central Division and is tied for the best record in the National Football Conference with the Washington Redskins. However the Cowboys (7-4) are coming on strong and gaining momentum heading into the homestretch of the season.

"The object is to get into the playoffs," said Packers defensive end Sean Jones. "We want to get Dallas, or whoever we play in Lambeau."

"There's still five more games. It's the fourth quarter, and we still have time to play."

Aikman, who entered the game having completed 74 percent of his passes and 10 touchdowns against the Packers in Dallas' previous six wins, was 24 of 35 for 206 yards. Irvin had five catches for 66 yards and Emmitt Smith, who ran for 150 yards and three touchdowns in the Championship Game, put in a quiet 76



Photos by Mark A. Wallenfang

Don Beebe (82) comforts Brett Favre (4) after Favre was knocked down in the fourth quarter prior to the two-minute warning.

yards on 20 carries.

"Defensively that was our best game against them in a while," said White. "That is something to build on."

Offensively, the Packers were shut down through most of the game.

After punting the ball on its first seven possessions, Green Bay's offense finally broke out of its slumber late in the third quarter via the run and drove to the Cowboys' 14. But Chris Jacke missed a 32-yard field goal to the left and the Packers ended up empty once again.

"That took the wind out of our sails," Holmgren said.

Green Bay's defense bent but didn't break during the Cowboys' first five drives and Dallas settled for five field goals from 45, 37, 42, 45 and 35 yards, respectively, by Boniol to take a 15-0 halftime lead.

Dallas moved with ease until it reached the vicinity of Green Bay's 20-yard line

throughout the game. Then Green Bay was able to stifle the Cowboys with defensive formations that included four linebackers and three down linemen.

Dallas drove to Green Bay's 27, 19, 24, 27 and 17 respectively, in the first half but were stopped short of the end zone by the Packers' No. 2-ranked defense. Aikman overthrew running back Herschel Walker in the end zone on the Cowboys' second drive, the closest the Cowboys came to scoring a touchdown.

Meanwhile, the Packers were unable to generate any offense against the Cowboys' top-ranked defense. Green Bay punted the ball away on all five of its possessions in the first half and only generated three first downs and 61 total yards. Dallas had 213 yards of offense in the first half and 10 first downs.

SEE PACKERS PAGE 6



■ Packers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Favre completed seven of 10 passes for 47 yards and had success early on, completing three passes for 33 yards to Jackson, but Dallas clamped down on the five-time Pro Bowl tight end and held him without a catch in the second quarter.

Aikman threw for 158 yards in the first half, including four passes to Irvin for 31 yards.

Aikman's 31-yard completion to Irvin down the left sideline during the Cowboys' first series set up Boniol's 45-yard field goal, giving Dallas a 3-0 lead.

Aikman threw for 25 yards to tight end Eric Bjornson and Emmitt Smith broke loose for a 26-yard gain to the 19, setting up Dallas' second field goal.

Gets the nod: Veteran left tackle Ken Ruettggers started for the first time since Green Bay's NFC Championship Game loss to the Cowboys on Jan. 14.

Ruettggers missed the first seven games this season because of a degenerative left knee and played behind rookie John Michels in the three games prior to Monday night's game against Dallas.

Extra points: Edgar Bennett made Packer history with his first of two receptions by extending his consecutive-game reception streak to 59 games, breaking a tie

with former wide receiver James Lofton.

Bennett also closed to within 17 yards of becoming the fifth player in Packer history to gain 5,000 yards rushing and receiving in a career. Four other players have surpassed that mark: Jim Taylor, Paul Hornung, John Brockington and Gerry Ellis.

■ Desmond Howard set a team record for punt returns in a season. Howard returned three punts and now has 42 for the season. Robert Brooks set the mark in 1994 with 40.

■ Former Packer George Teague started in place of free safety Brock Marion, who is sidelined with a shoulder injury.

■ Monday night's game was the 100th straight sell-out for a Dallas Cowboys game (home or away) and the 52nd straight sell-out at Texas Stadium, including the playoffs.



Photo by Mark A. Wallenfong

Packers linebacker George Koonce tackles Emmitt Smith.

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What they said afterward

Heres' what players and coaches from the Green Bay Packers and Dallas Cowboys had to say after the Cowboys' 21-6 win over the Packers on Monday night:

"I appreciated the opportunity. It means a lot to me, it's kind of dampered because of what happened afterward."

Chris Boniol,
Cowboys kicker

"They did a great job on special teams keeping us back. Field position against Dallas is important. You can't give them the short field."

Brett Favre,
Packers quarterback

"We had shut down their wide receivers and knew that they would have to look to other options like the back out of the backfield. When they throw short, our speed can hopefully prevent the big play. The Packers have so much big-play potential, we didn't want anyone getting away from us or out of our sight."

George Teague,
Cowboys safety

"Typically, if we can hold a team to 15 or 18 points we're gonna win. They had some long drives and were very resourceful."

Mike Holmgren
Packers coach

"Please don't take away from what our defense did tonight. Remember, sitting at home seeing their offense destroy people, so don't take away from what the defense did. They did a hell of a job on a great team, on a great offense, on a great quarterback."

Michael Irvin,
Cowboys receiver

Packers sure miss their injured starters

IRVING, Texas — What's it all mean? The Packers lose to Dallas in Dallas again. Are hopes for a trip to the Super Bowl suddenly unjustified? Was this team playing above its head when it streaked to an 8-1 record? Has Brett Favre lost his magic touch?

No, no and no.

The Packers' 21-6 loss to Dallas on Monday night means the Packers are not good enough to beat the Cowboys at their place without, No. 1, Robert Brooks, and No. 2, Antonio Freeman. Against excellent defensive backs like Deion Sanders and Kevin Smith, the Green Bay offense struggles without its top guns. That's not to say Don Beebe and Terry Mickens aren't good players. They are and they've shown that. It's more a case of when you play the best, you need your best. That's why Brooks and Freeman were the Packers starters before they were injured.

In two games against the Cowboys last season, Brooks' stats read 10 receptions for 124 yards and six catches for 105 yards. Packers wide receivers caught seven balls for 51 yards combined against Dallas on Monday night. The numbers don't lie, Green Bay is missing its injured starters.

Besides that, the Packers have picked



Larry McCarren
Featured columnist

up ground on the defending Super Bowl champs. Green Bay held the Cowboys to 21 points, which would have been good enough to defeat them in three of the previous six losses.

Emmitt Smith, who rushed for 256 yards and five touchdowns in 1995 against Green Bay, was held to under four yards a carry and no touchdowns.

Michael Irvin, who had 15 catches for 250 yards and three touchdowns last season, wound up with five receptions, 65 yards, and no touchdowns.

Troy Aikman, who has been unconscious against Green Bay, didn't throw a touchdown pass Monday night. Defensively, the Packers played good enough to win, but that unit hasn't been bit and bit hard by the injury bug.

The Packers are forced to play the hand they were dealt and the fact of the matter is they are banged-up offensively. What does the future hold? For starters, the longer Brett and Beebe, Mickens, et al, work together, the better the situation gets. There's no substitute for good old-fashioned repetitions. In the not too distant future, Freeman and then Mark Chmura should be back. That will help matters as well.

Finally, if you look at the remaining five games on the schedule, no team has the defensive backs the caliber of a Dallas (or even Kansas City, for that matter).

Beat the teams you should beat, even without you top guns and win that home field advantage. By then, the Packers are healthier. They've been unbeatable at Lambeau, and those Super Bowl hopes remain justified.

Big game's on horizon

IRVING, Texas — Like the NFC Championship Game last January, the Green Bay Packers lost to a superior Dallas Cowboys team.

Unlike the Championship Game, the Packers' season is not over.

There are still five games remaining and still plenty of time to win the home field advantage in the playoffs. Luckily, there's also time for Antonio Freeman and Mark Chmura to heal up.

Green Bay limped into "Hex Us" Stadium for the seventh straight time on Monday night, but for the seventh straight time were kicked right out. This time it was Chris Boniol who was doing the kicking. In the process, Boniol tied an NFL record by making seven field goals.

If you thought Boniol's leg was sore after the game, how about Packer punter Craig Hentrich's? Hentrich punted seven times as Big D's offense nearly shut out the Packers for the first time since 1991.

Life stinks, then you go to Dallas. It really stinks when you are trying to beat the Cowboys at less than full strength.

Given a little time, Freeman and Chmura will both be back in the lineup. Should the Packers and Cowboys meet again, it should provide for a more entertaining game the dud on Monday night.

The Packers obviously didn't match



Todd Korth
Packer Report Editor

up to the Cowboys, but the outcome may be a little different if the two teams ever play in Green Bay.

That appears to be in the Packers' favor now.

The Cowboys, who were coming off a overtime win over the San Francisco 49ers on Nov. 10, are heading into the final five games this season and a difficult stretch.

Dallas' final five opponents have a combined record of 32-23. Dallas plays Washington (8-3) twice and also faces New England (7-4).

Green Bay's toughest opponent will be Denver (10-1) on Dec. 8. The remaining four teams — St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit and Minnesota are all mediocre teams.

"We need to go 5-0 and hopefully play someone in our place," said Packers quarterback Brett Favre. We still control our own destiny."

The Packers will probably still have to go through Dallas, whether its in Texas Stadium or Lambeau Field. So, even though the big game that Packer fans were waiting for turned out to be another disappointing loss, the game that we are all hoping for — Dallas against Green Bay in Lambeau Field — could very likely take place.

What's new: In the past 10 months since Green Bay's last visit to Texas Stadium, the Cowboys have unveiled their version of the starhead, something like the cheesehead but with much less taste, so to say.

Texas Stadium also has new turf. The old turf is currently being sold (that Jerry Jones can sell anything, can't he). A six-inch star is going for \$24.95, or you can buy the whole end zone for \$100,000.



Coach's quotes

Mike Holmgren's comments after Green Bay's 21-6 loss to the Dallas Cowboys



Coach, what did you think of (Barry) Switzer's decision to have (Chris) Boniol kick that last field goal?

"Well, I don't know, that's his decision. He made the decision, they kicked it, the kid's a good kicker."

Did that inflame the emotions at that point?

"My emotions?"

Your emotions, the team's emotions..."

"It got a little unruly there at the end, I don't like to see that, no one does. That was too bad."

Overall the receivers didn't seem like they could shake the defensive backs early in the ballgame. Did that take the offense out of a rhythm? Was that the main problem early on?

"Their corners are very good. Deion is probably the best. So, we tried to run it a little bit early and we had some penalty problems today. They're a good team. You can't make the mistakes we made, can't get penalized like we did today."

"I hope we get to play them again ... if we play them again that means we're in the playoffs and that's one of our goals."

How would you describe your feelings right now?

"I'm disappointed. It's hard to come down here and not play well. Tonight in some areas we were OK but for the most part I wasn't particularly happy with how we played. Really, the penalties bothered me as much as anything."

You downplay not having Brooks and Freeman and Chmura, but is this game a different story if you have these guys?

"I don't know. I don't like to speculate. We had all those guys last year in the championship game and they got us. So they're a good football team. Losing those three fellows has affected our team, but we'll see. I hope we get them back. We won't get Robert back, but we'll get the

No Name Steaks® Player of the Game



Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Good game

Cornerback Craig Newsome helped keep Dallas receiver Michael Irvin in check and the Cowboys out of the end zone Monday night. Newsome finished with seven tackles. For his efforts, the staff at the Packer Report named Newsome the No Name Steaks player of the game.

other two guys back later in the year."

Are you concerned about how this will affect the team's confidence?

"I don't think so. I don't worry about that one so much because it's one game on our schedule. It was the 11th game, we've got five left in the regular season. Each game presents its own little hurdles and we deal with it a game at a time. So the fact that we haven't won down here makes for an inter-

esting story and I have to answer that question every year, but we do look at these games one at a time and we've done that but we haven't been able to get it done."

What did you think of your quarterback today?

"I thought he did OK when he had time to throw but that's been a problem for us here as well. I think their defensive line has done a good job against us and they did a good job tonight."

Could you talk about your defense? They kept them out of the end zone.

"Yeah, they did. Typically if we can hold a team to 15 or 18 points or whatever, we're usually going to win most of the time. But what they did is they used up a lot of time on those drives and were very resourceful that way I thought."

Did you ever think about going for it on fourth-and-six?

"On the miss? I thought 15-3 and we were moving the ball at that point, that took the wind out of our sails."

What do you have to do to get this team righted a little bit?

"We get back real late and they have tomorrow off and they have until Wednesday to be right."

Is there a chance you might look at different combinations at wide receiver in an effort to get things kind of jump started?

"If you have any names in mind, I'd be happy to listen."

What about Andre Rison, he was cut by Jacksonville?

"Is that right? Well, we'll see. I'm not sure that would be the best fit in the world."

Is Derrick Mayes ready to start contributing a little more?

"We'll see. It all depends on how they practice, really. Particularly at wide receiver because we're young there, they're all young. How they practice, that's who gets the most playing time."



Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Defensive end Reggie White closes in on quarterback Troy Aikman.

Pack's Possessions

First half				
Start	Plays	Yds.	Result	Time
GB30	3	5	PUNT	:59
GB18	7	34	PUNT	4:46
GB22	3	7	PUNT	2:12
GB23	5	-4	PUNT	3:16
GB23	3	9	PUNT	1:24
Second half				
GB14	3	0	PUNT	:49
GB8	6	19	PUNT	2:13
GB41	12	45	MISS FG	6:17
GB33	11	48	DOWNS	3:03
GB34	8	66	TD	1:35
DC50	2	19	GAME	:20

Cowboys' Possessions

First half				
Start	Plays	Yds.	Result	Time
DC33	6	40	FG	2:39
DC31	6	50	FG	1:49
DC41	9	35	FG	3:34
DC48	8	25	FG	4:15
DC20	13	63	FG	4:59
Second half				
DC40	3	8	PUNT	1:38
DC42	3	6	PUNT	1:34
DC9	3	7	PUNT	1:39
DC23	12	55	FG	7:14
DC20	3	-1	FG	1:33



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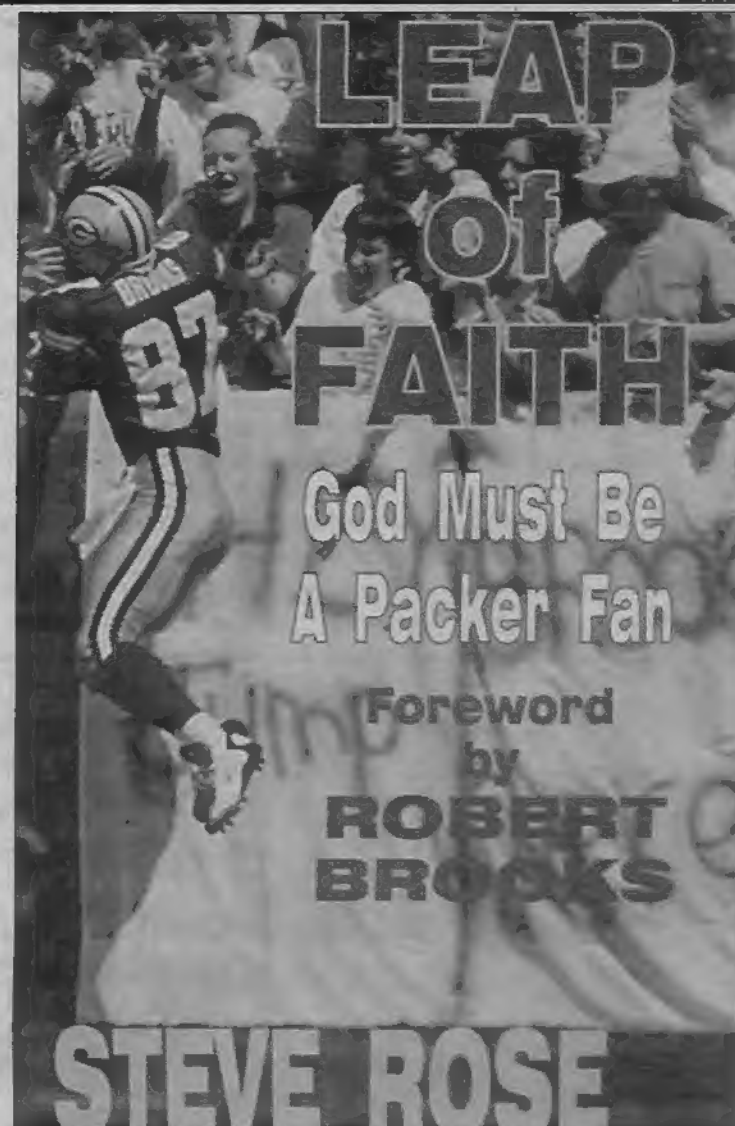
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Making most of demotion

Levens having career year despite role as a backup

By W. Keith Roerdink

He expected the worst. And why wouldn't he?

After securing the backup fullback spot to Edgar Bennett in 1994, Dorsey Levens found himself locked in battle with rookie William Henderson for the starting role when Bennett became the featured back a year later. It was a toss up who would win the training camp competition until Henderson injured his knee and the job went to Levens by default.

The former Georgia Tech standout performed admirably in his first season starting, but he knew at 235 pounds that the Packers were looking for a bigger, bulldozer-type to handle the lead blocking.

So when the 1996 season finally neared, the inevitable happened. The 6-foot-2, 250-pound Henderson was named the starting fullback.

"I knew it coming in," Levens said. "That's why they drafted him. He was a true fullback and I played



Levens

tailback my whole career, so I was kind of at a disadvantage from the start."

But Levens did not fade into the background of green jerseys on the Packer bench. Quite the contrary. Following his apparent "demotion," he's put up his best numbers yet as a pro and has been a vital cog in the Packers' offensive engine.

"When the season first started, I was kind of nervous because I didn't know how much I was going to play," Levens said. "I think a player's worst nightmare is to be a starter and the next year you're on the bench and I didn't want that to happen."

Neither did his coaches, who have inserted Levens into the lineup in single back formations and in goal line and short yardage situations.



Photo by Allen Fredrickson

Through 10 games, Dorsey Levens (25) was the team's second leading rusher with 250 yards on 67 carries, both career highs.

"As a lead blocker, he's not a fullback as far as a big, physical player," running backs coach Harry Sydney said. "But he does block well and he catches and runs. We're just using all his talents and he's doing a heckuva job for us."

And he's clearly making the designation of "starter" or "non-starter" irrelevant. Through 10 games, Levens was the team's second leading rusher with 250 yards on 67 carries, both career highs. He also had 17 catches for 146 yards.

"He's a threat anytime he has the ball in his hands," Sydney added.

No game was that more apparent than in a recent loss to the Kansas City Chiefs. Levens totaled 108 yards from scrimmage, gaining 25 on the ground and leading all

receivers with 83 through the air. Forty-nine of those yards came in a single, dazzling play, when after catching a short pass from Brett Favre, he took off for the sideline and a first down. But just as he appeared to be stepping out of bounds, he caught the Kansas City defense letting up and turned it upfield for big yardage.

"In my situation, every time I get the ball I'm trying to break a long one because I know I'm not going to get the ball that often," Levens said. "When I do, I have to make the best out of it."

Levens has also made the most of his scoring opportunities. He's tied for second on the team with five touchdowns, rushing for two and catching another three.

SEE LEVENS PAGE 11

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Levens by the game

Game	Rushing		Receiving		TDs
	No.	Yards	No.	Yards	
Tampa Bay	12	48	2	20	1 (receiving)
Philadelphia	9	25	0	0	1 (rushing)
San Diego	9	39	1	1	0
Minnesota	0	0	1	2	0
Seattle	6	28	3	18	1 (receiving)
Chicago	5	23	0	0	0
San Francisco	10	16	1	1	0
Tampa Bay	7	21	2	10	1 (rushing)
Detroit	4	25	2	11	1 (receiving)
Kansas City	5	25	5	83	0
Totals	67	250	17	146	5

Levens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

"That was one of the things they told me when I wasn't going to be starting, that I'd still be playing in short yardage and goal line like I did last year, so I'm happy with that," Levens said. "I think it's turned out better than I expected."

He's happy to be back playing more of halfback role as well. Levens was a high school all-American at Nottingham High School in Syracuse, N.Y., before heading to Notre Dame to begin his collegiate career. He entered 1990 as the No. 1 tailback on the Irish depth chart, but suffered a knee injury that limited him to just eight games. After being forced to sit out a red-shirt year in 1991, he transferred to Georgia Tech where he set a school record with a 7.2-yard per carry average. Now he's readjusting his backfield skills at the pro level, getting the most carries he's had since he left the Yellowjackets.

"I'm really just starting to get in the groove because I haven't carried the ball in a while," Levens said. "It's kind of different, but I really do enjoy it more than blocking."

While the redefining of Levens' role has worked out well for himself, it's also factored in to a better team running game. Bennett is averaging a career best 4.1 yards per carry, Henderson is blowing open the holes and contributing with a catch or carry here and there and the team as a whole is

averaging 111.7 on the ground, up over 15 yards from a year ago at this time.

"In certain ways, it keeps everybody fresh," Levens said. "I think the reason Edgar's yards per carry are up is because he isn't taking the pounding he did last year. He was the only guy who carried the ball then and (defenses) knew I wasn't going to carry the ball when I was in there, so I think it's definitely worked out to our advantage. All of us are doing well and I think it's because of our three-man rotation."

Sydney agreed.

"With (Bennett and Henderson) and Dorsey doing a lot of single back stuff, catching balls, running screens, we can do a lot of things," Sydney said. "It's the combination of all three that has allowed us to be successful. We're lucky, because between Edgar and Dorsey we have guys that can run, and William's not a bad runner either. It's a nice versatile attack."

And in a weird kind of football irony, not starting may have been the best thing to happen to Levens.

"In my situation, every time I get the ball I'm trying to break a long one because I know I'm not going to get the ball that often," Levens said. "When I do, I have to make the best out of it."

Dorsey Levens

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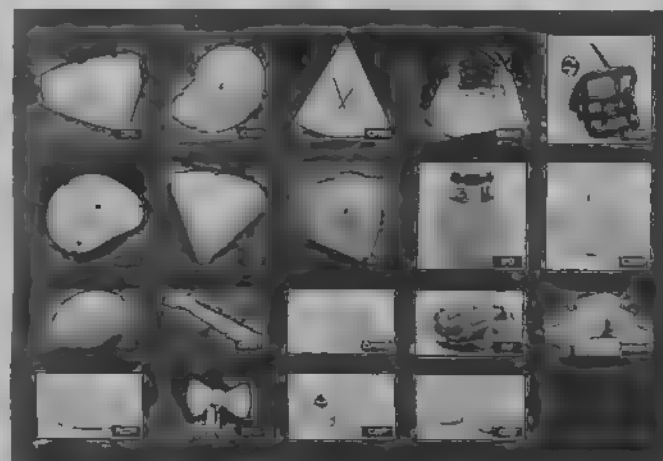
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For now, it's fill-ins or bust

Names will change, but Pack won't make big changes to offense

By Todd Korth

First it was Robert Brooks, then Antonio Freeman, and now Mark Chmura.

In a span of four games between October and November, Green Bay lost three of its starting receivers. As the Packers head into the homestretch of the season, they will rely on their reserves at wide receiver and tight end to help them defend their Central Division crown and battle for home field advantage throughout the playoffs.

Brooks is out for the season with a knee injury, Chmura (foot) will be out until at least mid-December and Freeman (broken forearm) may return as soon as Dec. 1. In the meantime the Packers are trying to make the best out of what has been a huge blow to their passing offense.

"I feel bad for the players more than anything else," said Packers coach Mike Holmgren. "They've worked very hard to get themselves in shape and have a great year and be a part of this."

"The players who are asked to fill in those roles will have to step up."

Green Bay has played its past three games with Don Beebe and Terry Mickens starting at wide receiver. Derrick Mayes, Desmond Howard and Anthony Morgan have been the primary backups.

When Chmura suffered a torn arch in his left foot against Kansas City, the Packers were left with Keith Jackson and little-used Jeff Thomason at the team's only tight ends.

The change in personnel doesn't necessarily mean the Packers will revamp their West Coast offense, but will likely be using less two tight end formations and putting their receivers in motion more to help them get past stronger, physical cornerbacks.

"We really don't change, we really don't," said Packers offensive coordinator Sherman Lewis prior to Green Bay's game

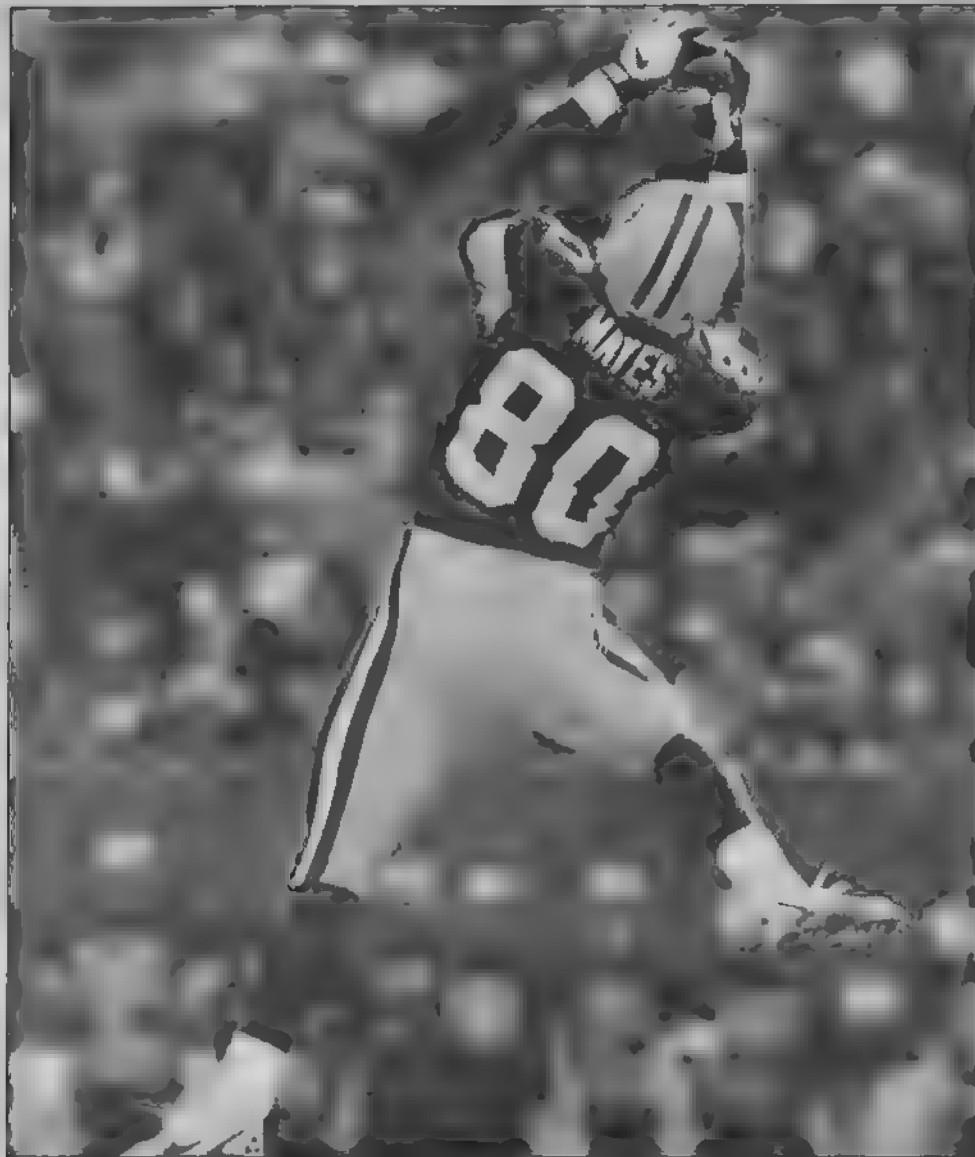


Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Rookie Derrick Mayes has displayed great hands and big-play potential.

at Dallas. "These guys have to step up and make the same plays. We're not going to change our offense. The system is in place and we expect these guys to perform the same way. Some things they do better than other things. There are certain routes they run better than we still call, but it's all within the system."

With Brooks and Freeman, the Packers have two big-play threats who command attention from defenses. Aside from Beebe, the big-play threat from Green Bay's reserve receivers drops off and defenses will likely try to take Jackson out

of the picture.

Beebe leads the Packers and is among the leaders in the league with a 19.5-yard average per catch. Mickens had a 8.3-yard per catch average going into Monday night's game at Dallas while Mayes was at 8.6. Morgan did not catch a pass in his first two games since he re-signed with the Packers. Jackson was averaging 12.8 yards per catch through 10 games.

Mayes, who missed the first half of the season with a shoulder injury, will get his chance to prove that he is capable of picking up where Brooks and Freeman left off

He made a beautiful catch in the end zone against Kansas City for his first NFL touchdown on Nov. 10 and has been impressive in practice.

"Derrick, I think, has big-play capability," said Holmgren. "I think he's going to be a fine football player for us. He's been hurt, he's a rookie and all those things have slowed his progress down."

"As we continue on, you'll probably see him more and more involved in what we do. There are reasons why those young guys don't play in the beginning. Derrick, as talented as he is, still has to learn how to do things, but he's a talent."

Because of the loss of Brooks, Freeman and Chmura, Lewis realizes opposing defenses will play the Packers differently.

"I think so," Lewis said. "Unfortunately for us, the last two teams (Kansas City and Dallas) have excellent corners, maybe the best cornerbacks in all of football. They're going to play man and lock up on you, bump and run you and take your wideouts out of the game. I think we'll beat them at times. I think there are times where we'll win, but they feel good doing that because they do that all year."

Lewis said a way around tougher, physical cornerbacks is to have running backs come out of the backfield, go to the tight end more and put the wide receivers in motion.

"We have to game plan and fit the needs of our wide receivers, you know, do the things that they do best," Lewis said. "When we had Robert and Antonio, we could just call things at random and they just did it. Now we have to fit the game plan to their needs a little bit more."

Holmgren and Lewis said the Packers do not plan to sign a tight end while Chmura is rehabbing his left foot. The Packers will, however, be using less double tight end formations in the final five games.

"We can't afford to lose anymore tight ends," Lewis said. "We're down to two now and we're not going to sign anybody, so just the fact that we don't want to expose them to the injury factor, plus we've got some fullbacks that we think we can use in that situation."

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Packer stats

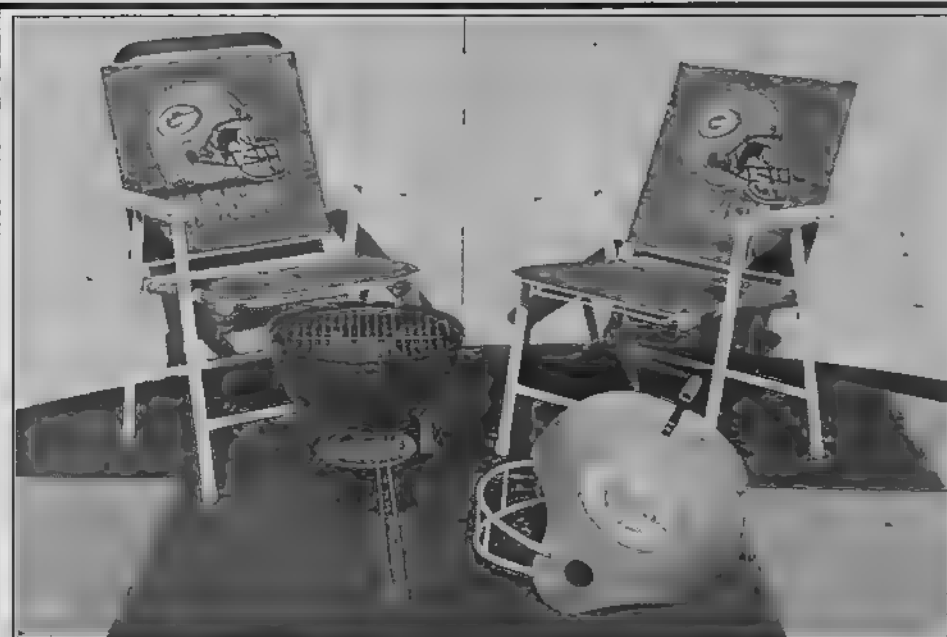


DEFENSIVE STATISTICS (unofficial through 10 games)

Player	Total Tackles	Solo	Assists	Sacks/Yards	Int./Yards	Fumbles Recovered	Forced Fumbles	Passes Defensed
Koonce	60	45	15	0.0/0.0	3/84	0	0	5
Butler	58	43	15	3.5/31.5	5/149	0	1	11
B. Williams	56	38	18	0.5/4.5	0/0	1	0	1
E. Robinson	50	30	20	0.0/0.0	4/68	0	0	8
Newsome	48	40	8	0.0/0.0	1/2	0	1	11
Evans	42	34	8	1.0/7.0	4/70	1	0	13
Simmons	37	27	10	1.0/1.0	1/0	0	1	3
Gi. Brown	32	24	8	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	1	0
S. Dotson	26	16	10	5.5/30.5	0/0	1	1	3
Prior	22	16	6	0.0/0.0	1/7	0	0	5
S. Jones	21	17	4	2.5/13.5	0/0	0	1	1
White	21	15	6	5.0/30.0	1/46	2	1	6
T. Williams	15	13	2	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	1
Wilkins	10	6	4	3.0/13.5	0/0	0	0	0
Harris	7	6	1	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	0
Holland	7	6	1	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	0
Mullen	4	4	0	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	0
McKenzie	3	2	1	0.5/0.0	0/0	0	0	0
Dowden	2	2	0	0.0/0.0	1/5	0	0	1
Hollinquest	2	2	0	0.0/0.0	1/2	0	0	1
Clavette	1	0	1	0.5/2.5	0/0	0	0	0
Cox	1	0	1	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	0
R. Brooks	0	0	0	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	1	0

Touchdowns: Butler 1, 90-yard interception return vs. San Diego (9/15); Koonce 1, 75-yard interception return at Minnesota (9/22). **Special teams tackles:** Hollinquest 11 (10-1), Harris 11 (7-4), Cox 8 (4-4), T. Williams 7 (7-0), Thomason 7 (6-1), Jervy 7 (5-2), Dowden 5 (4-1), Prior 5 (4-1), Evans 3 (3-0), Mullen 3 (3-0), Hentrich 3 (3-0), Chmura 2 (2-0), M. Robinson 2 (2-0), McKenzie 2 (1-1), B. Brooks 1 (1-0), Beebe 1 (0-1). **Special teams fumble recoveries:** T. Williams 1, vs. San Diego (9/15). **Special teams forced fumbles:** Evans 1, vs. Tampa Bay (10/27); Harris 1, vs. San Diego (9/15). **Blocked Punts:** White 1, vs. Tampa Bay (10/27). **Misc. tackles:** R. Brooks 2, Beebe 1, Bennett 1, Favre 1, Freeman 1, Henderson 1, Mayes 1, Mickens 1, Timmerman 1.

Passing	Att.	Cmp.	Yds.	Cmp. %	Yds/Att.	TD	TD%	Int.	Int. %	Long	Sack/Lost	Rating
Favre	355	209	2556	58.9	7.20	27	7.6	8	2.3	80t	27/165	97.1
McMahon	2	2	29	100.0	14.50	0	0.0	0	0.0	24	0/0	118.8
Hentrich	1	0	0	0.0	0.00	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0/0	39.6
TEAM	358	211	2585	58.9	7.22	27	7.5	8	2.2	80t	27/165	97.1
OPPONENTS	330	161	1828	48.8	5.54	8	2.4	22	6.7	69	23/134	46.1



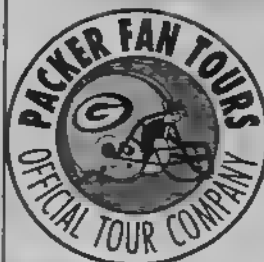
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Date	Opponent	Attendance
Sept. 1, W, 34-3	at Tampa Bay	54,102
Sept. 9, W, 39-13	Philadelphia	60,666
Sept. 15, W, 42-10	San Diego	60,584
Sept. 22, L, 30-21	at Minnesota	64,168
Sept. 29, W, 31-10	at Seattle	59,973
Oct. 6, W, 37-6	at Chicago	65,480
Oct. 14, W, 23-20 (OT)	San Francisco	60,716
Oct. 27, W, 13-7	Tampa Bay	60,627
Nov. 3, W, 28-18	Detroit	60,695
Nov. 10, L, 27-20	at Kansas City	79,281
Nov. 18	at Dallas	
Nov. 24	at St. Louis	
Dec. 1	Chicago	
Dec. 8	Denver	
Dec. 15	at Detroit	
Dec. 22	Minnesota	

	Packers	Opponents
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	217	157
Rushing	65	49
Passing	133	90
Penalty	19	18
3rd Down: Made/Att	60/138	47/142
3rd Down Pct.	43.5	33.1
4th Down: Made/Att	0/5	5/11
4th Down Pct.	0.0	45.5
POSSESSION AVG.	32:22	27:38
TOTAL NET YARDS	3537	2624
Avg. Per Game	353.7	262.4
Total Plays	680	612
Avg. Per Play	5.2	4.3
NET YARDS RUSHING	1117	930
Avg. Per Game	111.7	93.0
Total Rushes	295	259
NET YARDS PASSING	2420	1694
Avg. Per Game	242.0	169.4
Sacked/Yards Lost	27/165	23/134
Gross Yards	2585	1828
Att./Completions	358/211	330/161
Completion Pct.	58.9	48.8
Had Intercepted	8	22
PUNTS/AVERAGE	44/42.2	56/43.2
NET PUNTING AVG.	44/34.9	56/34.7
PENALTIES/YARDS	59/499	71/557
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	23/9	13/7
TOUCHDOWNS	34	15

Rushing	3	7
Passing	27	8
Returns	4	0

SCORE BY PERIODS	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	OT	PTS.
TEAM	63	95	88	39	3	288
OPPONENTS	16	68	16	44	0	144

SCORING	TD	RU	PA	Rt	K-PAT	FG	S	PTS.
Jacke	0	0	0	0	32/33	16/20	0	80
Jackson	6	0	6	0			0	36
Beebe	5	0	4	1			0	30
Freeman	5	0	5	0			0	30
Levens	5	2	3	0			0	30
R. Brooks	4	0	4	0			0	24
Bennett	2	1	1	0			0	14
Mickens	2	0	2	0			0	12
Butler	1	0	0	1			0	6
Henderson	1	0	1	0			0	6
Howard	1	0	0	1			0	6
Koonce	1	0	0	1			0	6
Mayes	1	0	1	0			0	6
TEAM	34	3	27	4	32/33	16/20	1	288
OPPONENTS	15	7	8	0	13/13	13/15	0	144

2-Pt. Conversions: Bennett, TEAM 1-1, OPPONENTS 1-2
 Sacks: Dotson 5.5, White 5.0, Butler 3.5, Wilkins 3.0, S. Jones 2.5, Evans 1.0, Simmons 1.0, Clavette 0.5, McKenzie 0.5, B. Williams 0.5, Team 23.0, Opp. 27.0

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
Bennett	144	595	4.1	23	1
Levens	67	250	3.7	15	2
Henderson	28	105	3.8	14	0
Favre	32	103	3.2	23	0
Jervy	18	64	3.6	11	0
R. Brooks	4	2	0.5	6	0
McMahon	2	-2	-1.0	0	0
TEAM	295	1117	3.8	23	3
OPPONENTS	259	930	3.6	37	7

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
Freeman	31	481	15.5	50t	5
Beebe	28	546	19.5	80t	4
Bennett	24	142	5.9	25t	1
R. Brooks	23	344	15.0	38	4
Jackson	21	268	12.8	51t	6
Henderson	19	173	9.1	27	1
Chmura	18	235	13.1	26	0

Levens	17	146	8.6	40	3
Howard	13	95	7.3	12	0
Mickens	10	83	8.3	17	2
Mayes	5	43	8.6	12	1
Thomason	2	29	14.5	24	0
TEAM	211	2585	12.3	80t	27
OPPONENTS	161	1828	11.4	69	8

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
Butler	5	149	29.8	90t	1
Evans	4	70	17.5	68	0
Robinson	4	68	17.0	39	0
Koonce	3	84	28.0	75t	1
White	1	46	46.0	46	0
Prior	1	7	7.0	7	0
Dowden	1	5	5.0	5	0
Hollingquest	1	2	2.0	2	0
Newsome	1	2	2.0	2	0
Simmons	1	0	0.0	0	0
TEAM	22	433	19.7	90t	2
OPPONENTS	8	70	8.8	41	0

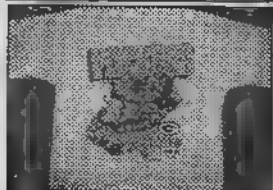
PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Net	TB	IN	LG	B
Hentrich	44	1856	42.2	34.9	9	17	63	0
TEAM	44	1856	42.2	34.9	9	17	63	0
OPPONENTS	56	2421	43.2	34.7	1	9	63	1

PUNT RETURNS	Ret.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Howard	40	9	458	11.5	65t	1
TEAM	40	9	458	11.5	65t	1
OPPONENTS	13	9	142	10.9	26	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Beebe	13	344	26.5	90t	1
Howard	8	165	20.6	32	0
Levens	5	84	16.8	29	0
Freeman	1	16	16.0	16	0
Henderson	1	23	23.0	23	0
TEAM	28	632	22.6	90t	1
OPPONENTS	51	1138	22.3	45	0

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Jacke	0/0	4/4	6/7	5/8	1/1
TEAM	0/0	4/4	6/7	5/8	1/1
OPPONENTS	0/0	3/4	2/2	8/9	0/0
Jacke: (23G, 40G, 46N) (29G, 44G, 38G) (48N) () (36G, 38N) (32G) (30G, 25G, 35G, 31G, 53G) (40G, 48G, 46N) () (24G, 49G) Opponents: (48G) () (43G, 46N) (34G, 44G, 33G) (44G) (40G, 41G) (48G, 28G) (27N) (48G) (26G, 22G)					

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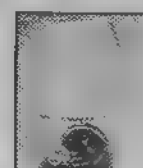
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Tight end depth will get tested

Thomason confident he can produce as primary backup

By W. Keith Roerdink

Depth is something that's nice to talk about, not really something you'd like to see demonstrated on a weekly basis. But in the first quarter of the Packers loss to the Chiefs, it took center stage again.

Pro Bowl tight end Mark Chmura lined up as he normally would, went five yards upfield at the snap of the ball - and suddenly dropped over. He had torn the arch in his left foot and will miss the next four to six weeks while recovering.



Thomason

"He just took three strides and went down," Packer coach Mike Holmgren said. "If you see it on film, it looks like a sniper got him. No one touched him, no one was near him. It just went."

A disheartened Chmura was on crutches and sporting a cast the next day.

"It was very weird," Chmura said. "It felt like the tape on my ankle had split. It felt like it just ripped. Then I felt it swelling up, and I knew something wasn't right."

Chmura is the third offensive starter to go down with injury, following receivers Robert Brooks, who was lost for the season with a knee injury in the San Francisco



game and Antonio Freeman, who broke his arm against Tampa Bay.

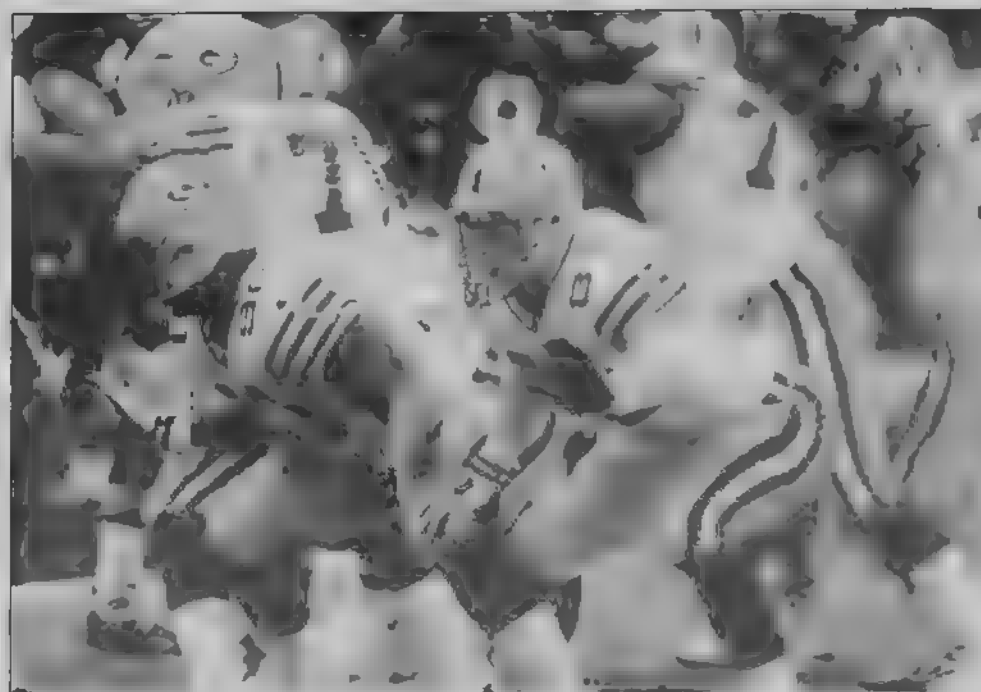
With Chmura out, Keith Jackson moves into the starting position and tight end Jeff Thomason, who has played primarily on special teams, will back him up and see time in the two tight end sets. The fourth year pro from Oregon will be looked on to step up just as Don Beebe and Terry Mickens did when called on.

"It's a great opportunity, but this isn't the way you want to get more playing time," said Thomason, who began his career with the Cincinnati Bengals before signing with Green Bay as a free agent in January of 1995. "But I've backed Mark up for two years now and I feel like I know this offense pretty well."

And while he may have only two catches for 29 yards this season, he did see extensive playing time in the preseason, catching five passes for 54 yards and a touchdown.

"I got to play quite a bit in the preseason and that helped out a lot and gave me some confidence," Thomason said. "Hopefully it gave (the coaching staff) some confidence in me, too, and they'll feel comfortable going with as many two tight end formations as they had been."

Chmura has no doubt that Thomason is up to the task, and related it to a similar experience he went through.



Packer Report photo

Jeff Thomason (83), who has played mainly on special teams in his first two seasons with Green Bay, will be playing more at tight end.

"Jeff can be effective, it's just a matter of his inexperience," Chmura said. "I look at it a lot like when Jackie (Harris) and Ed (West) were here, Jackie got hurt and I had to step up and do the same thing."

Injury updates: Aside from Chmura, the only other Packer out of action is receiver Antonio Freeman, who hopes to return from a broken forearm when Green Bay battles Chicago on Dec. 1.

Receivers Terry Mickens and Anthony Morgan both sustained neck sprains against the Chiefs, but were expected to play against Dallas. Sean Jones was also expected back on the defensive line after leaving the Kansas City game with a sore ankle. Dorsey Levens had a sore ankle, as well, but expected to play.

Ram-ifications: Along with the rich history the Packers and Rams have between them, they've also shared the services of several coaches and players over the years.

Packer defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur spent nine years with the Rams (1982-1990) in the same position and in 1989 oversaw a unit which racked up 42

sacks and played in the NFC Championship game. Larry Brown, Green Bay's defensive line coach spent eight years (1983-1990) coaching the Rams front line over the same period of time. His coaching duties followed an 11 year career as a defensive tackle with the team in which he was selected to five Pro Bowls, started three NFC Championship Games and played in the Rams only Super Bowl appearance.

Special teams coach Nolan Cromwell also cut his coaching teeth with the Rams (1991) after a distinguished playing career. He was a four time Pro Bowl selection during his 11 year stint as a defensive back and holds the team record for interception return yardage with 671 yards on 37 picks.

On the Rams side, assistant head coach and running backs coach Johnny Roland spent a year as an assistant with the Packers in 1974.

From the player perspective, Keith Crawford, who was a reserve cornerback and special teams standout with the Packers during the 1995 season was signed by the Rams and converted back to receiver, the position he played collegiately at Howard Payne.

Mark Williams, who backs up Carlos Jenkins at the Rams strongside linebacker

SEE NOTEBOOK PAGE 17

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BRETT FAVRE

Notebook

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

position is also a former Packer. Picked up as a free-agent before the 1994 season, the former Ohio State player and second cousin to NBA great Julius Irving, was lost in the 1995 expansion draft to the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Packer running back James Bostic, who's spent the year on injured reserve, was originally drafted by the Rams in 1994 and tight end Jeff Thomason played under current Ram head man Rich Brooks at the University of Oregon.

Logo for Lambeau: Every NFL team, and really every sports team for that matter, has a logo which adorns a helmet or jersey and readily identifies them to the world. The buildings they compete in, however, do not always share that notoriety. With that in mind, a logo was created for Lambeau Field that would serve as a symbol for the football "mecca."

"Lambeau Field is more than a place," Packer president Bob Harlan said. "To the people who come here, it's an experience. It is like no other place in all of sport. The tradition is palpable. This logo combines those feelings of past glory with great hopes for the future."

The design was created by Henke & Associates, a Cedarburg, Wis. based advertising, marketing and design agency.

Giving Back: The NFL Charities recently awarded \$1 million in grants to support the various charitable foundations of NFL players, including several members of the Green Bay Packers.

Tight end Keith Jackson was awarded a cut of the grant for his Positive Atmosphere Reaches Kids (PARK) project. The 51,000-square-foot facility in his home town of Little Rock, Ark., features a tutoring center, computer lab, library, women's center, video arcade and weight room. PARK is a year-round support program for at-risk youth and combines educational, recreational and community service activities.

Other Packers receiving a share of the grant are current players Reggie White and Eugene Robinson and former Packer great Bart Starr.

Young guns: A lot of talk has been made about the struggles some of the league's young quarterbacks are going through. Highly picked, highly priced and hardly performing would be an apt description for signal callers like Rick Mirer, Trent Dilfer or Heath Shuler.

But Packer coach Mike Holmgren said there are young quarterbacks out there who are lighting up defenses. He rattled off the three he knew best to illustrate his point: Brett Favre, Ty Detmer and Mark Brunell.

"It's all coaching," said a laughing Holmgren, who along with coaching Favre, coached Detmer and Brunell before they moved on.

While Favre has led the league in touchdowns and passer rating all year, his former teammates have found success, as well.

Detmer took over for the Eagles when Rodney Peete went down in Week 5's Monday night game against Dallas. Philadelphia lost that game but following

that, Detmer led the team to four straight wins, including a rematch with Dallas. Along the way Philadelphia's offense has soared to second in the NFC and Detmer has become the conference's second ranked passer, behind Favre. Of course Detmer's success is only surprising to anyone who never saw him play in Green Bay or forgot that he set 50-plus passing records while winning the Heisman Trophy at BYU.

Brunell doesn't have quite the individual numbers of Favre or Detmer but he does operate the NFL's No. 1 ranked passing attack and the league's No. 2 overall offense. He's also a threat when he tucks the ball under his arm and decides to run ala Steve Young.

"Those are three young quarterbacks starting and playing well for their football teams," Holmgren said. "There are guys out there. You just have to commit to them and put your neck out."

Questionable calls: Still wondering about the phantom pass interference call and subsequent ejection of Packer cornerback Doug Evans in the Chiefs game? You're not alone. So are Evans and his head coach.

When the flag was thrown following a deep incompleteness to Tamarick Vanover, the expected call was offensive pass interference, after Vanover gave Evans a tug from behind to avoid an interception. Instead the penalty was on Evans. And when Evans touched back judge Tim Millis while questioning the call, line judge Byron Boston tossed another flag for unsportsmanlike conduct and tossed Evans out of the game. Millis appeared unaware that Evans had even touched him.

"I'm not the type of guy to argue with a ref or anything," the mild-mannered Evans said. "It was just a reaction type thing, it was taken way out of proportion."

The usual fine for a first offense is \$10,000, but Holmgren said the team will definitely be talking to league officials about it.

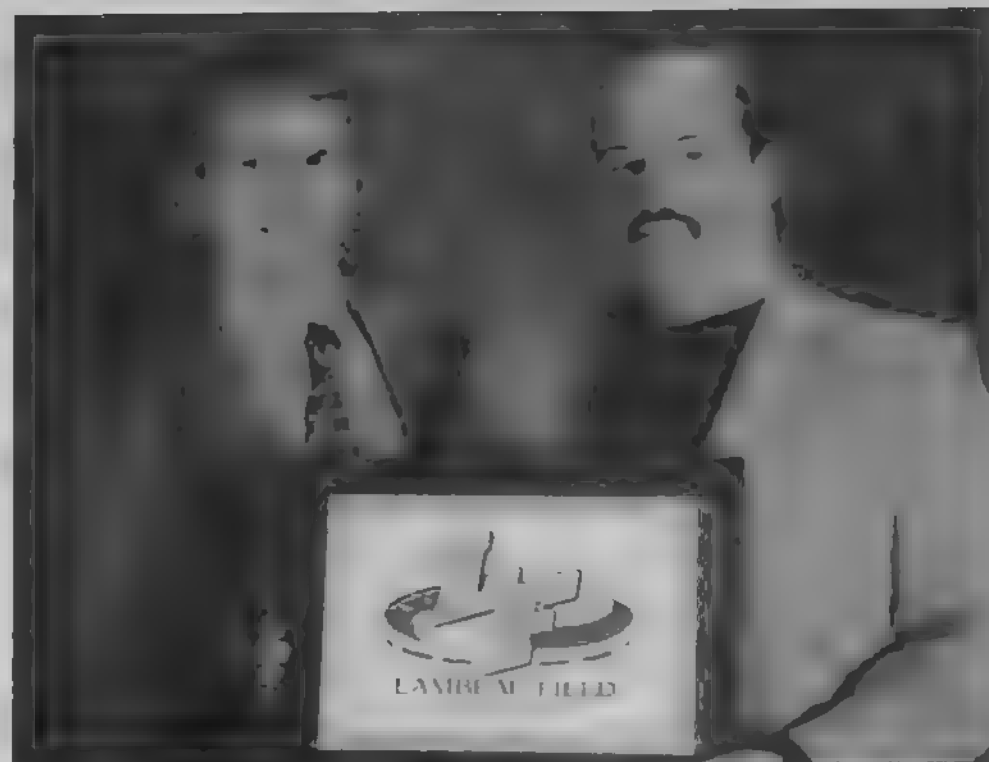
"That was really a bad call," Holmgren said. "It was either no call or offensive pass

Trivia winner

Jim Jungbauer of Stacy, Minn., won a copy of "Packer Legends in Facts" by correctly answering a trivia question published in the Nov. 2 issue of the *Packer Report*.

Jungbauer was selected from a number of people who correctly answered that Vince Lombardi's primary position in football during high school was fullback.

To win, all answers must be postmarked no later than one week from the date on the cover of the *Packer Report*. If there is more than one correct answer, a drawing will be held to select a winner. The books, which retail for \$29.95, will be mailed out by Tech/Data Publications, Germantown, Wis., (414) 251-7027. To order or for more information on the book, call Pat Canter at Tech/Data Publications.



Jack Henke, left, and Glen Zaring of Henke & Associates, Inc., Green Bay, present the first-ever logo for Lambeau Field.

interference, but it wasn't even close to being defensive pass interference."

But Holmgren added that regardless of the call, under no circumstances does he want his players making contact with the official.

"There was no shove, there was no bump, but he did touch an official," Holmgren said. "They called shoving the official and that is not what happened."

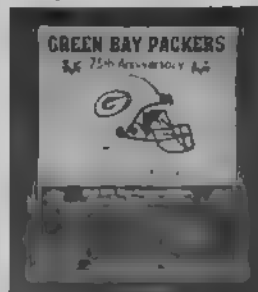
"But the bottom line is not to touch or bump an official."

Change of schedule: Packer fans who are part of the Milwaukee season ticket package will be attending the second and fifth home games instead of the second and sixth home games beginning next year.

Team president Bob Harlan said concern about travel conditions and holiday conflicts prompted the change.

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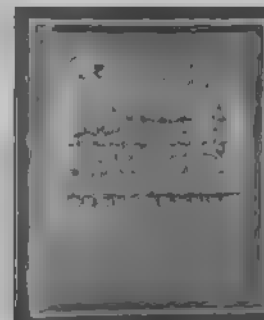
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These are full-color aerial photographs transferred directly to the plate face. *Lambeau Field*. The date was September 17, 1995, and a 14-6 victory over the Giants was unfolding on the field. *Milwaukee County Stadium*. This depicts the FINAL PLAY OF THE FINAL GAME at County Stadium. The date was December 18, 1994, and this extra point kick gave the Packers a 21-17 victory over the Falcons.

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Waiting in the wings

Wilkins prepares to follow in footsteps of Jones, White at end

Beauty, mountainous Gabe Wilkins can tell you, is not the only thing that is in the eyes of the beholder.

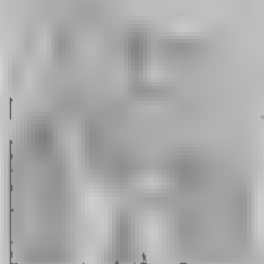
In his hand-to-hand profession, in the heart of the NFL trenches, the Packers' third-year defensive end has discovered that the perception from one side of the scrimmage line to the other — specifically, the assessment of the adversary across the way — also depends upon the “view” and the viewer.

In his case, he is quick to admit, it has been a matter of “optical,” then physical, adjustment.

“Coming into the league, probably my first year, I’d look at guys (on the other side) and say, “Oh, man, big, strong, you know,” he explained while reflecting upon his personal maturation process as a defensive lineman at the pro level. “But, as the years went by, I take more of an approach of looking at myself and saying, ‘Well, hey, I’m big, too (6-foot-4, 305 pounds)... I’m strong, too.’”

“So it’s probably more so thinking, and putting a mindset in myself that I can get the job done — rather than what the other guy is going to do to me... So I think once I started to realize that, you know, that kind of changed my outlook on things a whole lot because, if you really look at it, a defensive guy doesn’t know the snap count and he doesn’t know the play. But he does know how to come off the ball — he’s got to get to the guy with the ball.

“And when you’re an offensive lineman, you know, you’re stopping a guy. I think that’s where things equal out. And if you have any little bit of an idea of what they’re doing, out of certain formations, or what’s going on, then you can be success-



Lee Remmel

Featured columnist

ful....So I think that was pretty much a big turning point for me.”

Makes most of playing time

Another “big turning point” for the massive South Carolinian could well have come on a collectively unhappy afternoon for the Packers in Kansas City (Nov. 10), when his performance was one of the few positives as the Green and Gold fell to the Chiefs (27-20).

With Sean Jones handicapped by a gimpy ankle, Wilkins found himself making the most extensive appearance of his pro career, filling in at right end for three quarters and an estimated “40 or 50 snaps.”

Subsequently, after reviewing his performance during the customary Monday afternoon video session, Gabe was relatively comfortable with what he had seen.

“Obviously, you know, there are always some things you think you can do better,” he acknowledged. “But, overall, I think I did a decent job of coming in and



Photo by Mark A. Wallentang

Gabe Wilkins got one of his three sacks this season Oct. 6 against the Chicago Bears.

playing. The one thing I try to focus on is, if I am called upon to go in for somebody, that there’s no dropoff, there’s no letdown, there’s no nothing that I’m going to be held accountable for. So I feel like, as long as I go in there and pay attention while they’re in the game and give it my best, I think that will never happen. So that’s what I think I did.”

Larry Brooks, Wilkins’ position coach, agreed with Gabe’s self-appraisal.

“He did a real good job for us,” Brooks said, adding, “He’s starting to get a little more relaxed when he’s out there... He’s a good athlete — he’s fast and he has great size.

“Probably the biggest thing with him — and it’s our fault, not his — is that he hasn’t had much playing time. (But) he went out there Sunday and played well.”

Heir apparent at defensive end

This situation, it would appear, is likely to change somewhat. With starting ends Reggie White and Sean Jones due to reach their 35th and 34th birthdays before the season ends, Wilkins obviously is an heir apparent at one flank or the other.

In the interim, however, he knows his role is to fill in when and where needed — a responsibility which is more challenging than it might appear at first glance.

“It probably is the toughest thing throughout a ball game,” he conceded. “Every game, you’re going out and you know you might get a shot. But probably, yeah, that might be the hardest position to be put in. You know, coming in like in the middle of the game, boom, an injury, say, in the second or third quarter and, boom,

SEE WILKINS PAGE 19

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Wilkins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

you're in the game, all of a sudden. There's no time to think, no time to, you know, regroup or nothing like that. You've just got to go in and play."

Jones, Wilkins said, helped him make this "transition" during his lengthy Kansas City stint.

"Lots of encouragement, lots of information...things that I couldn't immediately see from my position," Gabe informed. "He was telling me a little bit about what was going on in the backfield...what kind of tendencies to look for...and make sure I'm alert for certain things and certain situations that he would be more adept at knowing about."

'Big jump' to NFL

A fourth round draft selection in 1994 from a relatively small school, Gardner-Webb, Wilkins says that it was sometime during his second season that he first began to realize he was, indeed, big and strong enough to match up against any of his NFL adversaries.

"I went, my first year, mostly at end, and then my second year, I played seven games at tackle and found out that it was harder to move from outside in but easier to move from inside out," Gabe confided, "because things were simplified a little more, so I took that and just ran with it. You know, I started thinking about - as

opposed to having certain blocks on things that can happen to me down low - these things I don't have to worry about outside. So I could just come off the ball and play, rather than thinking."

Whatever the perception may be,



Wilkins

Wilkins is convinced his small school background was not a hindrance to him, and his development.

"I don't think it was myself and I don't think it was the place that I played at in college that held me back," he said. "I think it was more so how people perceived a smaller college of athletes. I don't think I did anything to hold myself back...It wasn't the program - I mean we had a fine program. I just think, probably, more scouts, more coaches tend to look towards the bigger colleges and say, 'Well, hey, he's bigger, stronger...faster.' But that's not necessarily true any more. You find a lot of small college guys, like the outside linebacker from Pittsburgh, Greg Lloyd. He played at a small school but he's a big-time player. So I don't think it's where you come from, it's where you're at."

Gabe admits, however, that it was a "big jump" from Gardner-Webb to the NFL.

"Definitely," he confirmed when the question was raised. "Not so much talent and heart-wise, because you got guys that play in those divisions that want to win - you know you can see it in their eyes...and it's in their heart. And it all comes down, I think, to if you have any talent at all, I mean, after that it's all heart. It's wanting to do it, wanting to get it done, I think. So I don't think, in that aspect, it was a big difference, but you did see a lot more talented guys. That, I think, was the biggest difference."

Adjusts after injury.

Physically, Wilkins' most imposing hurdle to date has been the sprained knee he suffered in a game against the Minnesota Vikings in the seventh week of the '95 season.

"It was something freak, just like something freak, you know," Wilkins said. "I'd never been injured to a point where I couldn't play in a game. So it kind of, at first, scared me a little. Then I accepted it, and then after that I once got it out of my mind, I was over it, but I think it took me probably a little longer than most guys, to get it out of my mind."

Described as the possessor of "very good natural strength" by Packers strength/conditioning coach Kent Johnston, Gabe brings impressive athletic credentials to his task, having been an all-state selection in football at Broome High School in Spartanburg, S.C., a three-time letterman in track - a sport in which he set a state record in the shot put and a

regional mark in the discus - and two-letter winner in basketball.

"We had a big man's relay in track," he reported, "so I learned a little about running techniques. And, of course, throwing the shot and discus, I had to stay in the weight room...And when football season came around, I was right back at it, you know, because I'd just left track. So being all-around in sports - plus playing basketball, I kind of kept my wind about me."

His time will come

As he spoke, Wilkins had matched the three-sack total of his second season in '95 - with six games to play - and thus in an excellent position to establish a new single-season high for himself.

"With a little more playing time, a little more time that I'm getting, I want to improve on that," he said, appending, "Every year, try to get better...take some part of the game and emphasize that in my mind and go into each game and try to improve that, and keep everything else coming along at the same time."

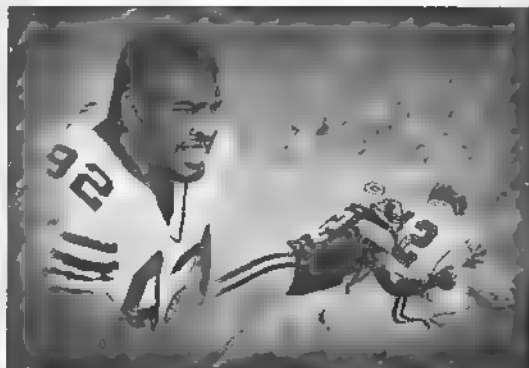
With an eye, presumably, to starting status in the next year or two.

"That's what we're hoping - that Gabe will be able to step in there and start when the time comes," Brooks affirmed. "We shouldn't miss a beat with those guys. He's been around a long time in the system."

"The biggest question, of course, is over the long haul... (But) we hope he'll be able to step in there when they (White and Jones) finish their deal."

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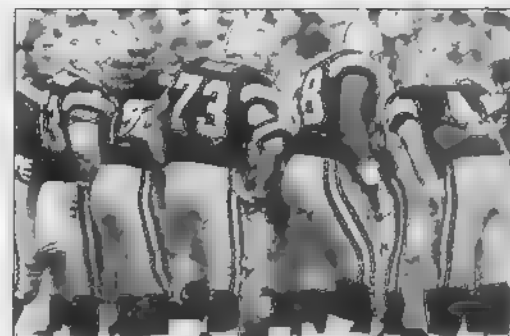
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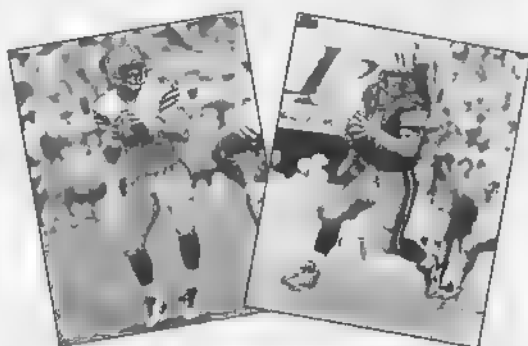
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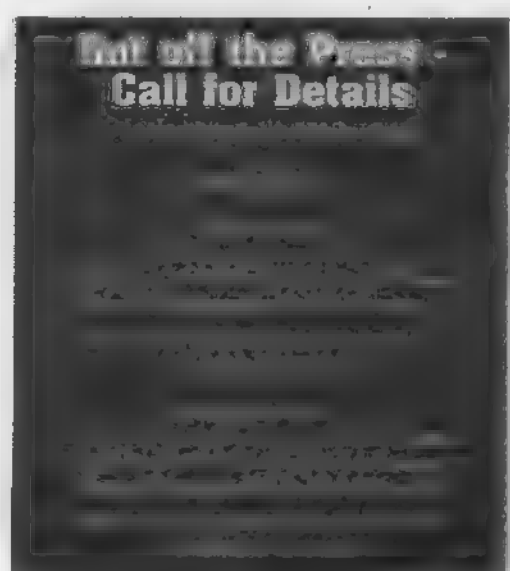
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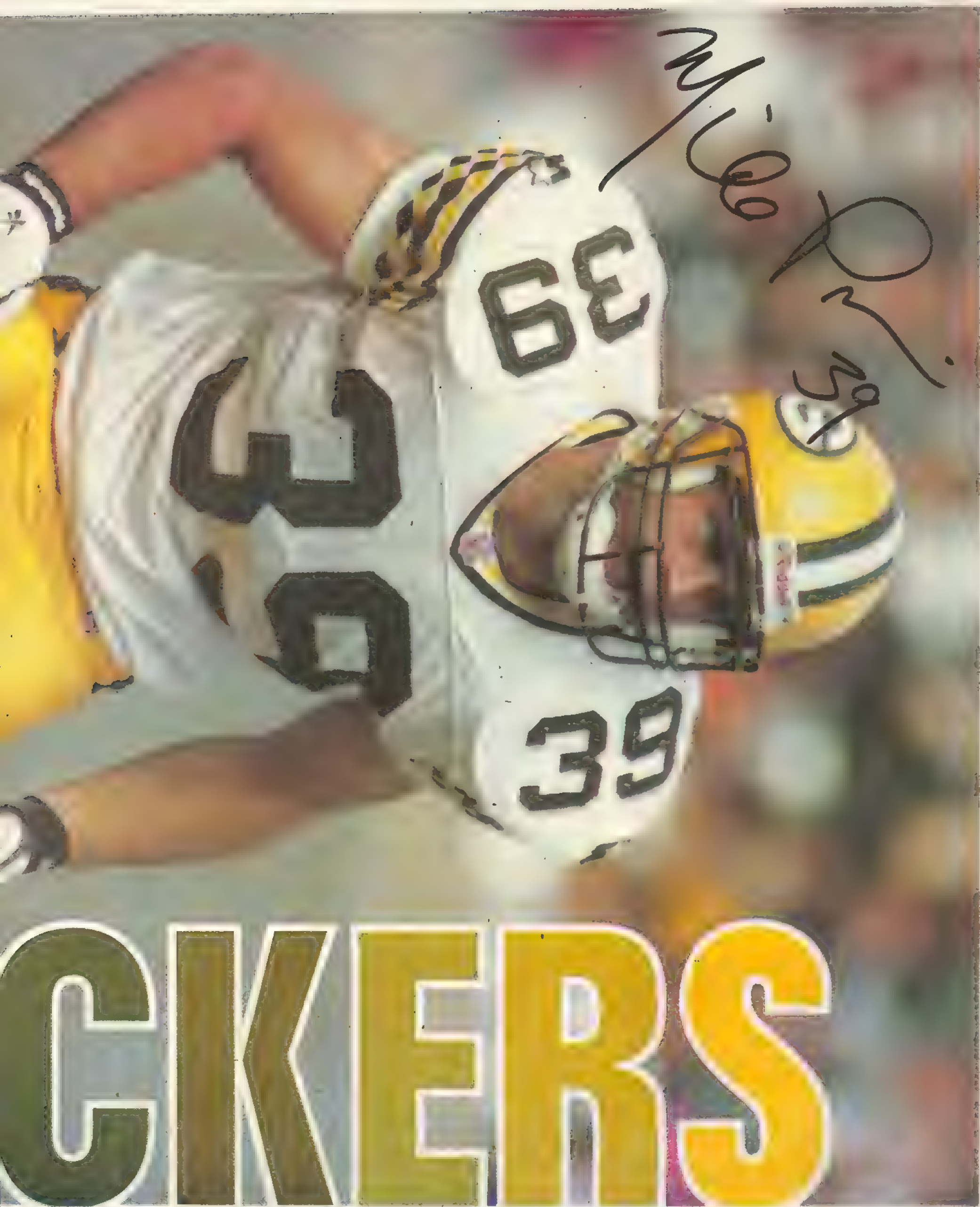
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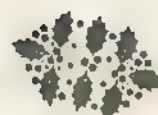
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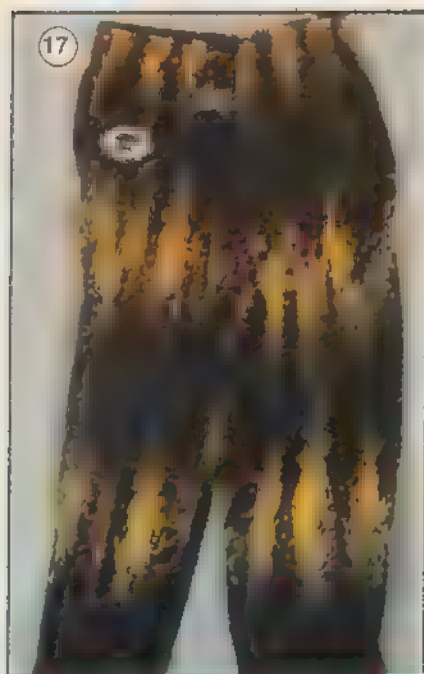
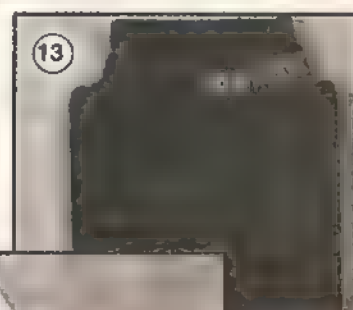
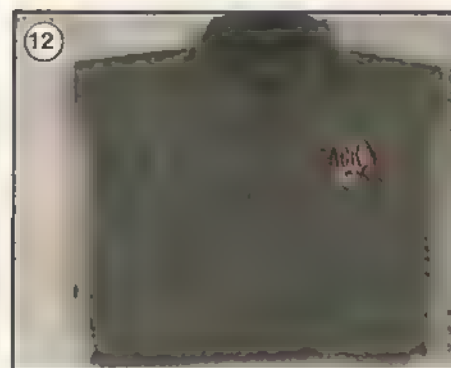
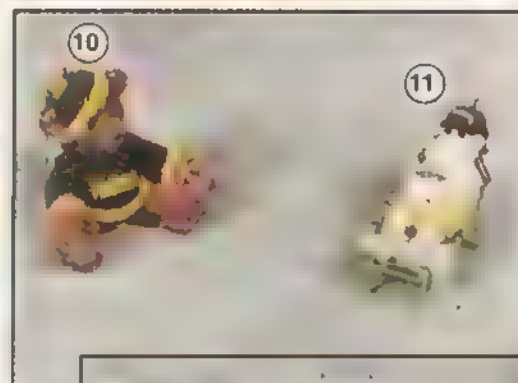
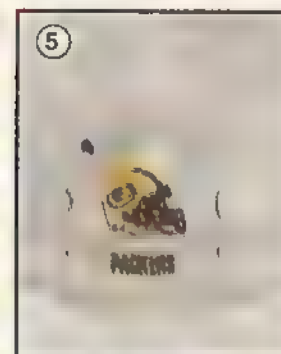
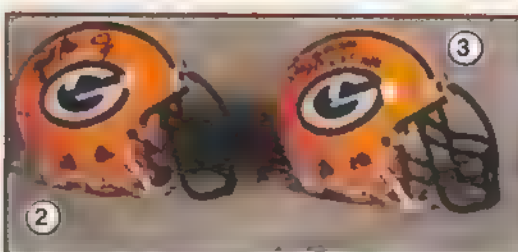
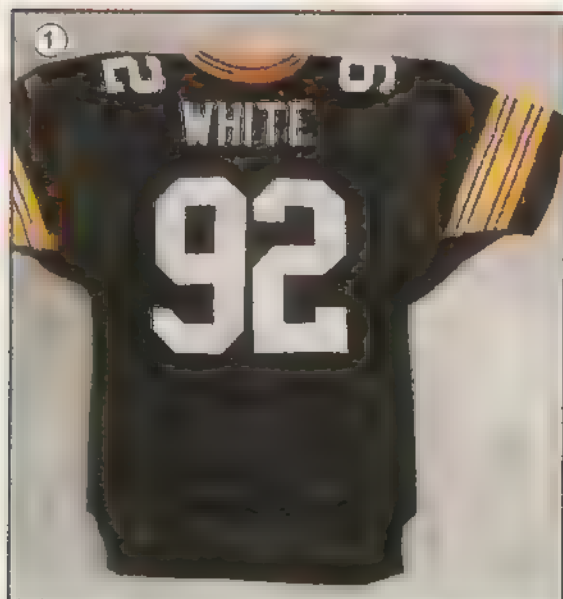
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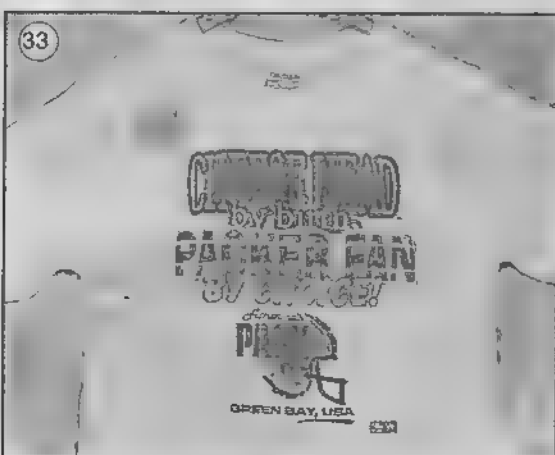
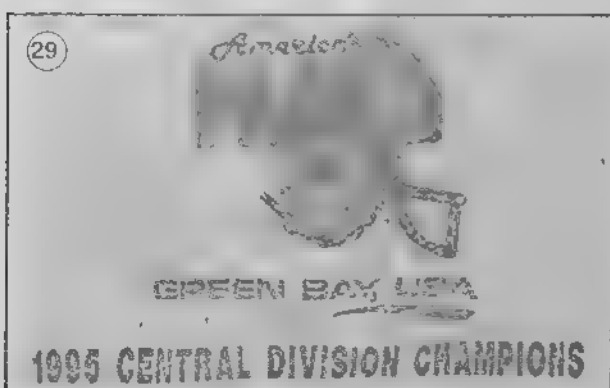
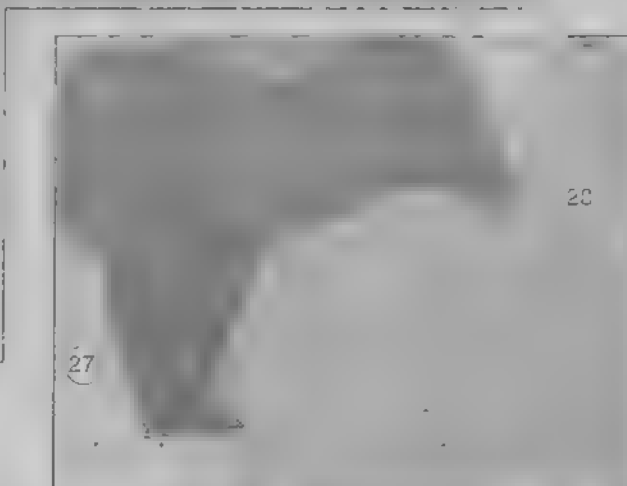
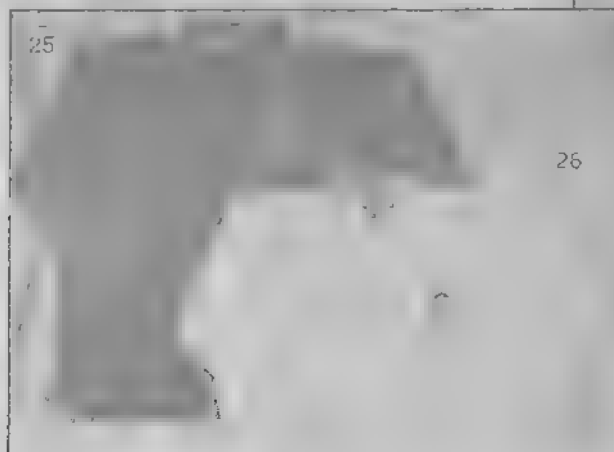
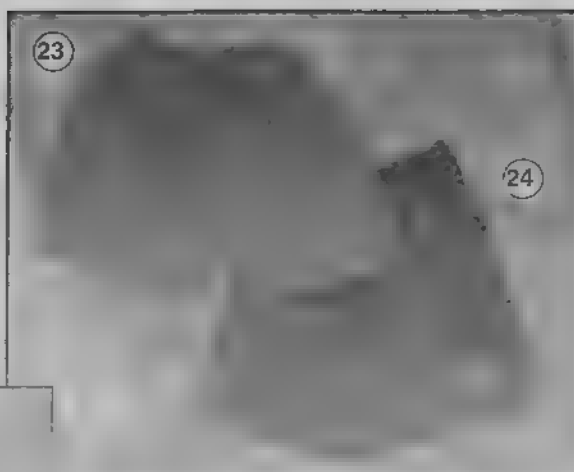
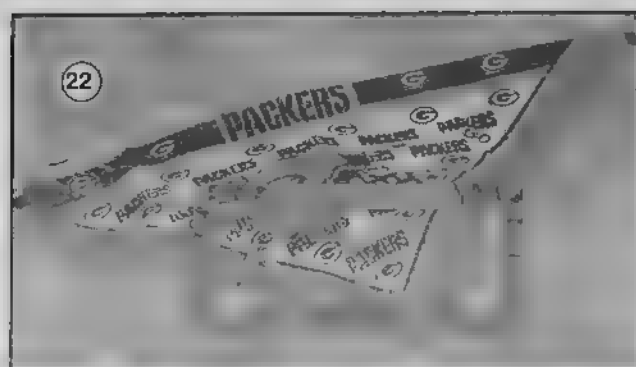
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'Oddball' card well-rounded

To the average football card collector, any card that depicts his or her favorite player needs to be a collection additive, no matter how unconventional it may appear.

King B discs would certainly be classified as an unorthodox collectible; largely due to its circular shape. Although each disc measures 2 3/8 inches in diameter, they fit nicely into top loader holders and album pages that are normally made for conventional cards.

The 1996 version has changed in design considerably from past issues, using defensive stalwarts as the theme. Each disc is dedicated to one of 24 different NFL sackmasters with the inscription "sack-it-to-em" on the card front and career sacks listed on the card back.

Reggie White is card #1 while former Packers Tony Bennett and Bryce Paup are cards #4 and #5, respectively.

The first NFL rendition was a 24-disc set in 1989 and found in selected products made by King B, a manufacturer of beef jerky since 1976. One numbered disc was inserted on the bottom of each can of Jerky Stuff or wrapped in clear cellophane and inserted into bags of Bits and Pieces. The inks used in the printing process are FDA approved.

Why would a company that makes meat products need an association with the NFL and want to give away collectibles?

Before the idea was conceived regard-

Barry Shuck



Collectors' Corner

ing sports related discs, King B was looking for an edge to create some added value for consumers and to make their products more noticeable. The company had used coupons in earlier promotional efforts, but this angle didn't work as well as anticipated.

Norm Schenk, then-company CEO, liked the baseball discs that were included in Jiffy Pop popcorn and suggested the idea of using professional athletes on cards that would fit in the companies' own little cans; specifically, round cards.

"We started out with a baseball set in 1988 and 1989, and then proceeded on with an NFL set in 1989," says Les Shinkle, VP of marketing at King B. "It was strictly a stab in the dark to help promote a product, and people took notice."

Shinkle took King B's intentions to Michael Schechter and Associates (MSA),



Reggie White is card #1 on King B's 1996 sackmaster discs.

who at the time was the licensing agency for the NFL Players Association.

"Les came to us with the idea in order to get NFLPA approval," recalls Schechter. "The idea was immediately considered to be in the realm of good, clean fun and a nice collectible for kids."

The NFL set was basically an All-Star sampling of the time period with players like Richard Dent, Joe Montana and Bo Jackson. A red border encompassed the outer perimeters of the card and boasts "1st Annual Collectors Edition" across the bottom. Most players are shown without a helmet while the King B logo adorns the card front. The card backs have various stats and personal information.

It is estimated that King B produced about five million baseball card discs in 1989, yet only 500,000 for football. The complete set is valued at \$40 in near-mint (NM) condition, with the Montana commanding \$15.

One has to wonder with all the available players in the NFL, why there are only 24 cards in the set.

"The NFLPA required that you could not isolate on just one or two players, the minimum was 24," Shinkle explains. "There are various degrees of royalties that have to be paid. MSA suggested using a 24-player format that could be added to later, if we desired. One-hundred, forty-four discs fit on one sheet, which gives us six complete sets per

sheet."

King B has offered a set ever since the 1989 season, with the 1996 version the eighth edition. Although the design is different for each year, there are several similarities. Besides the fact that each have the same dimensions and shape, the photos used are predominately helmetless-facial shots. Each corresponding year is printed on the card face along with the King B logo, while the card backs sport either the NFLPA emblem or Players, Inc. logo along with stats and a short bio. The discs are available from September through December.

Packers involved for each year are 1990 - John Stephens (#17), Don Majkowski (#23); 1991 - Sean Jones (#3); 1994 - Terrell Buckley (#3), Brett Favre (#5), Sterling Sharpe (#22).

This type of collectible is identified in the hobby as "oddball." Do people actually seek out oddball versions?

"Some collectors complain about the size of the discs, which is strange, because they fit into everything a regular card does," said Larry DeMartini, the owner of an extensive football card collection. "But most enjoy the fact that they are different. The avid team or player collector will go after them no matter what they look like."

DeMartini is the publisher of the most comprehensive guide for any football card collector, entitled "The Football Card Alphabetical Checklist." Any player that has ever appeared on cardboard is listed here, no matter how obscure the card set. To inquire about this time-saver, write to 1159 West 1140 North, Provo, UT 84604, or call (801) 373-5715.

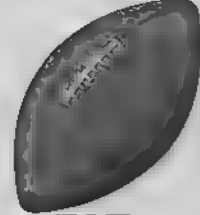
With the 10-year anniversary edition right around the corner, Shinkle revealed that something special will be included in that year's design, possibly a foil-stamped version or even multiple variations

Barry Shuck's news and views on collectibles appears bi-weekly in the Packer Report. Readers are invited to submit questions or comments on card collecting to Shuck at P.O. Box 646, Bagdad, Fla. 32530. A self-addressed stamped envelope must accompany all requests.

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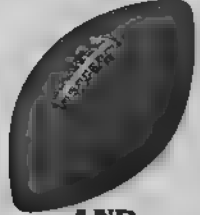


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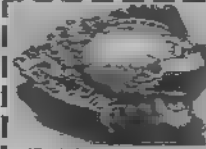
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Defense key factor in Pack's quest for ring

Over the years I've had a few friendly arguments with Packer players concerning the very different arts of playing offensive or defensive football.

In my simple mind, I always figured that all the defensive players had to do was react to what the offense throws at them. The offensive players had to think first and then do it. In short: Think vs. React.

Put another way, the offensive guys know what they were going to do while the defensive gents didn't know what they were going to do until they saw what the offensive players did.

That sounds like first grade logic but it is presented herewith as a means of introducing today's topic: Deeeeeeefense.

This homily was in the planning stage for a week or so and, horrors, now it sounds awful after Green Bay's 27-point allowance at Kansas City. Plus, this was written prior to the Pack's brush with Troy Aikman and Company. What happened?

Going into Dallas, the Packers allowed 144 points in 10 games, an average of 14.4, and still the lowest figure in the NFL. The two Super Bowl finalists last January had these averages for the 16-game league season: Dallas 18.1, Pittsburgh 20.4.

The Packer defense is composed of 23 players. Other than four players, this unit is really young. The other 19 average 25 years and just 3.7 years of NFL experience.

The four oldtimers are Reggie White, 34 years of age and 12 years of NFL play; Sean Jones, 33 and 13; Eugene Robinson, 33 and 12; and Mike Prior, 33 and 11. Prior backs up Robinson and LeRoy Butler at safety.

It is interesting to note that five of the starting defensive 11 will turn a year older in December. Right now, the defensive starters average 27.9 years of age. Before December is history, the average age will jump to 28.3.

White will turn 35; Jones 34, and Santana Dotson 27 all on Dec. 19. Wayne Simmons reaches 27 on Dec. 15 and Brian Williams is the baby, 24, on Dec. 17.

The Packers have three rookies on defense: cornerbacks Michael Robinson and Tyrone Williams, and linebacker



Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

The Packers had a hard time stopping Greg Hill and the Chiefs.

Keith McKenzie. All three are 23. Of the so-called 12 non-starters, only Prior and linebacker Ron Cox have considerable experience — Prior 11 seasons and Cox seven. The other 10 range from rookie to three years.

The Chiefs scored 27 points, but their third touchdown was set up when Brett Favre fumbled on the Packer 24 on the first play of the second half. Then, the Packer defense looked bad when running back Greg Hill scooted up the middle for a touchdown on the next play.

The Packer defense was first in the NFC and third in the NFL in yards allowed rushing before the Chiefs game. Those figures become dimmed by the Chiefs' 182 rushing yards (4.6 yards per carry).

Green Bay is 2-1 in the three games it allowed more than 100 yards rushing. The Seattle Seahawks ripped the Pack for 159 yards, but Green Bay won 31-10. Detroit, behind Barry Sanders, piled up 166 yards in the Packers' 28-18 victory.

Kansas City assistant coach Jimmy Raye said "we had one mind set — run the ball. We couldn't get into a passing game with them."

It is easy to exonerate the tacklers when Sanders runs wild, but not in the case of Kansas City rushers who had an impressive day. The Pack seems to have trouble with speed backs such as Robert Smith of the Vikings (88 yards), Chris Warren of the Seahawks (103 yards), Sanders (152 yards) and Hill (94 yards).

In view of the Pack's 8-2 record, it seems rather silly to harp on a particular defensive mishap and, being a rah, rah optimist, the loss at K.C.-like Minnesota, came at the start of a three-game road trip. The Packers won five straight after their loss to the Vikings.

Of Green Bay's 144 points allowed, 45 came in the last two games prior to Dallas. Detroit scored two TDs, K.C. three. Three came on rushes and two on passes.

Defense is becoming more of a key factor in the Packers' quest for home field advantage in the playoffs. The reason is



Art Daley

Featured columnist

obvious: The Pack's scoring machine could be curtailed in view of injuries to wide receivers Robert Brooks and Antonio Freeman, and tight end Mark Chmura.

Now the Packers visit the St. Louis Rams, who scored 59 points in whipping Atlanta in Week 11. The Packers, however, owe the Rams a beating. In their first game under the St. Louis tag, the Rams beat the Pack, 17-14, at Lambeau Field last season. That was the Pack's last loss at Lambeau.

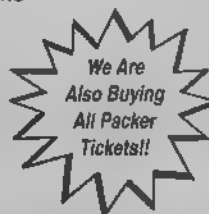
And, oh yes, getting back to Thinking or Reacting. Maybe it would be better to call it Blocking or Tackling.



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Bucs showing signs of life



By David Marran

This week: New Orleans

Series: New Orleans leads 12-4

Last meeting: Sept. 18, 1994 at Tampa: Saints 9, Buccaneers 7. New Orleans has won four of five in Tampa. The Bucs have scored a total of seven points in three of their last four meetings with the Saints. The Saints have won four in a row from the Bucs. The Bucs have failed to reach double digits in four of their last six games with the Saints.

Scouting report: Could things be finally coming together for Tony Dungy's Bucs?

After close calls against the Cardinals, Packers and Bears, the Buccaneers stunned the Oakland Raiders in overtime, 20-17, Nov. 10 in Tampa.

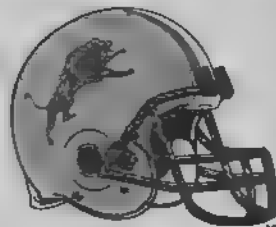
Along with the win, the most encouraging news that came out of the Raider game was the performance of running back Errict Rhett, who gained 95 yards. In typical Rhett fashion, he did it in 33 attempts. Still, the 95 yards has to signal to the Bucs that Rhett may be rounding into football shape. He ended a long holdout in time for the Bucs' game at Green Bay on Oct. 27.

NFC/NFL rankings: Offense 14th/29th overall (12th/25th rushing, 13th/28th passing), Defense 8th/15th overall (13th/28th rushing, 4th/4th passing).

Team leaders: Passing: Trent Dilfer: 162-306 (52.9%), 1,723 yds., 8 TD, 14 INT; Rushing: Reggie Brooks 106-355 (3.3 avg.), 2 TD; Receiving: Mike Alstott 37-313, 8.5 avg., 2 TD; Scoring: Michael Husted 49 points (10-11 PAT, 13-18 FG); Punting: Tommy Barnhardt 43-42.9 avg.; Sacks: Lonnie Marts 6.0.

Notes: Marts' six sacks ranked 12th in the NFC through 10 games. He logged three sacks in his first five seasons.

■ Barnhardt's 38.0 net punting average was third in the NFC through 10 games.



This week: At Chicago

Series: Bears lead 75-53-3

Last meeting: Lions won 35-16 Sept. 22, 1996 at the Silverdome. Scott Mitchell threw for 336 yards while Johnnie Morton had a career day with seven catches for 174 yards and two touchdowns. Curtis Conway countered with eight catches for 126 yards and a TD.

Scouting report: The Lions have been struggling with injuries at quarterback but it may not matter against the Bears for two reasons. Scott Mitchell battled shoulder and rib injuries as the calendar hit mid-November. He was replaced by former Packer starter Don Majkowski who posted decent numbers but no wins. The Lion signal caller may not matter at Chicago because both Mitchell and Majkowski have had success against the Bears and both will have Barry Sanders. If Barry Sanders can get going, it may not matter who is behind center. This may be tough to do against the Bear defense which surrendered just 40 points in a three-game stretch in late October and November.

Team leaders: Passing: Scott Mitchell 158-275 (57.5%), 1,873 yds., 14 TD, 11 INT; Rushing: Sanders 181-848 (4.7 avg.), 6 TD; Receiving: Herman Moore 66-861 (13.0 avg.), 7 TD; Scoring: Jason Hanson. Moore 44 points; Punting: Mark Royals 51-44.2 avg.; Sacks: Robert Porcher 7.0.

NFC/NFL rankings: Offense 8th/16th overall (7th/16th rushing, 6th/15th passing); Defense 12th/21st overall (7th/21st rushing, 13th/24th passing).

Notes: Through 10 games, the Lions were minus-4 in takeaways/giveaways.

■ Cornerback Ryan McNeil's five interceptions through 10 games were a career-high and were tied for the NFC lead.

■ Porcher logged seven sacks through 10 games. His career-high was 8.5 in 1993 but he posted just eight in 1994 and 1995.



This week: Detroit

Series: Bears lead 75-53-3

Last meeting: Lions won 35-16 Sept. 22, 1996, at the Silverdome. After a scoreless first quarter, the teams combined for 37 points in the second. The Lions scored 21 of the points and led 21-10 before Jim Flanigan caught a one-yard TD pass from Erik Kramer with 16 seconds left in the half. That was the closest the Bears would get as Detroit scored a touchdown in each of the last two quarters.

Scouting report: No matter how bad the Lions are they always have Barry Sanders which means they are always a threat to win. Sanders has gained at least 90 yards in seven of his 14 games against the Bears. His best effort was a 167-yard performance in the Lions' 21-16 win in Pontiac in 1994. His worst effort against the Bears was three weeks later when he could manage just 42 yards at Soldier Field. This should be a pretty interesting matchup because the Bear defense came out of the bye on a roll. The Bears allowed just 40 points while going 2-1 against Minnesota, Tampa Bay and Denver.

Team leaders: Passing: Dave Krieg 101-180 (56.1%), 1,031 yards, 5 TD, 8 INT; Rushing: Raymont Harris 86-396 (4.6 avg.), 1 TD; Receiving: Curtis Conway 53-696 (13.1 avg.), 4 TD; Scoring: Jaeger 49 points; Punting: Sauerbrun 51-46.3 avg.

NFC/NFL rankings: Offense 11th/25th overall (4th/10th rushing, 12th/25th passing); Defense: 7th/14th overall (5th/10th rushing, 11th/20th passing).

Notes: Barry Minter logged four tackles in his first start for the injured Bryan Cox at linebacker Nov. 10 at Denver.

■ Running back Raymont Harris posted back-to-back 100-yard efforts against Tampa Bay and Denver. Harris had 112 yards rushing and 31 passing against Denver.



This week: Denver

Series: Minnesota leads 5-3

Last meeting: Nov. 14, 1993 at Denver: Vikings 26, Broncos 23. Minnesota's win was its third in the last four meetings over Denver.

Scouting report: Could the slumping Vikings have asked for a tougher assignment than Denver.

The Broncos emerged from Nov. 10 games an NFL-best 9-1. At the heart of the Bronco attack were quarterback John Elway, running back Terrell Davis and tight end Shannon Sharpe. Elway was fifth in the AFC in passing, Sharpe was first in the AFC in receptions and reception yards while Davis was second in the AFC in rushing.

That trio has assembled an impressive resume playing mostly on grass. It's scary to think what they could do in the climate controlled and fast track of the Metrodome. The fact that the Broncos sport the second best run defense in the NFL and the Vikings are without their leading rusher Robert Smith will make things tougher.

If the Vikings can spring this upset, they may be in good shape to make a run at the playoffs. After hosting Denver, the Vikings will host Arizona, play at Detroit and host Tampa Bay before concluding the season at Green Bay.

NFC/NFL rankings: Offense 7th/15th overall (14th/28th rushing, 2nd/5th passing); Defense 9th/16th overall (10th/16th overall, 10th/23rd rushing, 7th/9th passing)

Team leaders: Passing: Warren Moon 134-247 (54.3%), 1,610 yds., 7 TD, 9 INT; Rushing: Robert Smith 162-692 yds. (4.3 avg.), 3 TD; Receiving: Cris Carter 59-775 (13.1 avg.), 5 TD; Scoring: Scott Sisson 57 points; Punting: Mitch Berger 60-40.9 avg.; Sacks: John Randle 7.5

David Marran is sports editor of the Kenosha News.

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 at Carolina 29, Atlanta 6
 Kansas City 20, at Houston 19
 at Jacksonville 24, Pittsburgh 9
 at Indianapolis 20, Arizona 13
 at Minnesota 17, Detroit 13
 at St. Louis 26, Cincinnati 16
 Philadelphia 17, at Washington 14
 at Miami 24, New England 10
 at San Francisco 27, New Orleans 11
 at Denver 31, N.Y. Jets 6
 at San Diego 29, Seattle 7
 Buffalo 23, at N.Y. Giants 20 (OT)

Monday, September 2

at Chicago 22, Dallas 6

WEEK 2

Sunday, September 8

Minnesota 23, at Atlanta 17
 at Buffalo 17, New England 10
 at Detroit 21, Tampa Bay 6
 Houston 34, at Jacksonville 27
 at Kansas City 19, Oakland 3
 Carolina 22, at New Orleans 20
 Indianapolis 21, at N.Y. Jets 7
 at Pittsburgh 31, Baltimore 17
 at Washington 10, Chicago 3
 at Dallas 27, N.Y. Giants 0
 at San Diego 27, Cincinnati 14
 Denver 30, at Seattle 20
 at San Francisco 34, St. Louis 0
 Miami 38, at Arizona 10

Monday, September 9

at PACKERS 39, Philadelphia 13

WEEK 3

Sunday, September 15

at PACKERS 42, San Diego 10
 Minnesota 20, at Chicago 14
 at Cincinnati 30, New Orleans 15
 at Houston 29, Baltimore 13
 at Miami 36, N.Y. Jets 27
 at New England 31, Arizona 0
 at Philadelphia 24, Detroit 17
 Indianapolis 25, at Dallas 24
 at Oakland 17, Jacksonville 3
 Kansas City 35, at Seattle 17
 Washington 31, at N.Y. Giants 10
 at Denver 27, Tampa Bay 23

Monday, September 16

at Pittsburgh 24, Buffalo 6

WEEK 4

(Open Dates: Baltimore, Cincinnati, Houston, Pittsburgh)

Sunday, September 22

at Minnesota 30, PACKERS 21
 at Detroit 35, Chicago 16
 at Carolina 23, San Francisco 7
 at Kansas City 17, Denver 14
 Arizona 28, at New Orleans 14
 N.Y. Giants 13, at N.Y. Jets 6
 Washington 17, at St. Louis 10
 Seattle 17, at Tampa Bay 13
 at Buffalo 10, Dallas 7
 at New England 28, Jacksonville 25 (OT)
 San Diego 40, at Oakland 34
 Philadelphia 33, at Atlanta 18

Monday, September 23

at Indianapolis 10, Miami 6

WEEK 5

(Open Dates: Buffalo, Indianapolis, Miami, New England)

Sunday, September 29

PACKERS 31, at Seattle 10
 at Chicago 19, Oakland 17
 at Baltimore 17, New Orleans 10
 Denver 14, at Cincinnati 10
 at Jacksonville 24, Carolina 14
 at N.Y. Giants 15, Minnesota 10
 at Pittsburgh 30, Houston 16
 Detroit 27, at Tampa Bay 0
 at Arizona 31, St. Louis 28
 at San Diego 22, Kansas City 19
 at San Francisco 39, Atlanta 17
 at Washington 31, N.Y. Jets 16

Monday, September 30

Dallas 23, at Philadelphia 19

WEEK 6

(Open Dates: Arizona, Dallas, N.Y. Giants, Phil., Tampa Bay, Wash.)



STANDINGS



NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Eastern

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Washington	8	3	0	.727	265	211
Philadelphia	7	4	0	.636	249	229
Dallas	7	4	0	.636	227	171
Arizona	5	6	0	.455	195	261
N.Y. Giants	4	7	0	.364	180	220

Central

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
PACKERS	8	3	0	.727	284	165
Minnesota	6	5	0	.545	185	207
Detroit	5	6	0	.455	225	230
Chicago	4	7	0	.364	154	206
Tampa Bay	3	8	0	.273	140	212

Western

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
San Francisco	8	3	0	.727	272	172
Carolina	7	4	0	.636	237	158
St. Louis	3	8	0	.273	211	300
Atlanta	2	9	0	.182	193	318
New Orleans	2	9	0	.182	167	252

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Buffalo	8	3	0	.727	222	192
New England	7	4	0	.636	283	249
Indianapolis	6	5	0	.545	206	237
Miami	6	5	0	.545	261	225
N.Y. Jets	1	10	0	.091	201	298

Central

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	8	3	0	.727	258	163
Houston	6	5	0	.545	250	213
Cincinnati	4	7	0	.364	231	257
Jacksonville	4	7	0	.364	205	236
Baltimore	3	8	0	.273	264	324

Western

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Denver	10	1	0	.909	296	175
Kansas City	8	3	0	.727	220	178
San Diego	6	5	0	.545	242	264
Seattle	5	6	0	.455	222	256
Oakland	4	7	0	.364	230	206

Sunday, October 6

PACKERS 37, at Chicago 6
 New England 46, at Baltimore 38
 at Detroit 28, Atlanta 21
 Seattle 22, at Miami 15
 at Minnesota 14, Carolina 12
 Oakland 34, at N.Y. Jets 13
 at Buffalo 16, Indianapolis 13 (OT)
 at Denver 28, San Diego 17
 at New Orleans 17, Jacksonville 13
 San Francisco 28, at St. Louis 11
 Houston 30, at Cincinnati 27 (OT)

Monday, October 7

Pittsburgh 17, at Kansas City 7

WEEK 7

(Open Dates: Denver, Kansas City, San Diego, Seattle)

Sunday, October 13

at New Orleans 27, Chicago 24
 Houston 23, at Atlanta 13
 Miami 21, at Buffalo 7
 at Carolina 45, St. Louis 13
 at Dallas 17, Arizona 3
 at Jacksonville 21, N.Y. Jets 17
 Washington 27, at New England 22
 at Pittsburgh 20, Cincinnati 10
 at Tampa Bay 24, Minnesota 13
 Philadelphia 19, at N.Y. Giants 10
 at Oakland 37, Detroit 21
 at Indianapolis 26, Baltimore 21

Monday, October 14

at PACKERS 23, San Francisco 20 (OT)

WEEK 8

(Open Dates: Chicago, Detroit, Green Bay, Minnesota)

Thursday, October 17

at Seattle 34, Kansas City 16

Sunday, October 20

at Carolina 19, New Orleans 7
 at Dallas 32, Atlanta 28
 New England 27, at Indianapolis 9
 at Philadelphia 35, Miami 28
 at Washington 31, N.Y. Giants 21
 at Arizona 13, Tampa Bay 9
 at Denver 45, Baltimore 34
 at Houston 23, Pittsburgh 13
 Buffalo 25, at N.Y. Jets 22
 at San Francisco 28, Cincinnati 21
 at St. Louis 17, Jacksonville 14

Monday, October 21

Oakland 23, at San Diego 14

WEEK 9

(Open Dates: New Orleans, Oakland)

Sunday, October 27

at PACKERS 13, Tampa Bay 7
 Pittsburgh 20, at Atlanta 17
 at Baltimore 37, St. Louis 31 OT
 at Cincinnati 28, Jacksonville 21
 N.Y. Giants 35, at Detroit 7
 San Francisco 10, at Houston 9
 at Philadelphia 20, Carolina 9
 at Washington 31, Indianapolis 16

N.Y. Jets 31, at Arizona 21
 at Denver 34, Kansas City 7
 Dallas 29, at Miami 10
 at Seattle 32, San Diego 13
 at New England 28, Buffalo 25

Monday, October 28

Chicago 15, at Minnesota 13

(Open Dates: Jacksonville, N.Y. Jets)

Sunday, November 3

at PACKERS 28, Detroit 18
 at Chicago 13, Tampa Bay 10
 at Atlanta 20, Carolina 17
 Cincinnati 24, at Baltimore 21
 Philadelphia 31, at Dallas 21
 San Diego 26, at Indianapolis 19
 Kansas City 21, at Minnesota 6
 at N.Y. Giants 16, Arizona 8
 at Pittsburgh 42, St. Louis 6
 at Buffalo 38, Washington 13
 at New England 42, Miami 23
 at Seattle 23, Houston 16
 San Francisco 24, at New Orleans 17

Monday, November 4

Denver 22, at Oakland 21

WEEK 11

Sunday, November 10

at Kansas City 27, PACKERS 20
 at Denver 17, Chicago 12
 at Cincinnati 34, Pittsburgh 24
 at Miami 37, Indianapolis 13
 Houston 31, at New Orleans 14
 New England 31, at N.Y. Jets 27
 Buffalo 24, at Philadelphia 17
 at St. Louis 59, Atlanta 16
 at Tampa Bay 20, Oakland 17 (OT)
 Arizona 37, at Washington 34 (OT)
 at Jacksonville 30, Baltimore 27
 Dallas 20, at San Francisco 17 (OT)
 at Seattle 42, Minnesota 23
 at Carolina 27, N.Y. Giants 17

Monday, November 11

at San Diego 27, Detroit 21

WEEK 12

Sunday, November 17

at Kansas City 14, Chicago 10
 at Atlanta 17, New Orleans 15
 at Buffalo 31, Cincinnati 17
 at Detroit 17, Seattle 16
 at Indianapolis 34, N.Y. Jets 29
 Denver 34, at New England 8
 Washington 26, at Philadelphia 21
 at Pittsburgh 28, Jacksonville 3
 Carolina 20, at St. Louis 10
 at Arizona 31, N.Y. Giants 23
 Miami 23, at Houston 20
 Tampa Bay 25, at San Diego 17
 at San Francisco 38, Baltimore 20
 Minnesota 16, at Oakland 13 (OT)

Monday, November 18

at Dallas 21, PACKERS 6

WEEK 13

(All times are Central)

Sunday, November 24

Detroit at Chicago Noon
 Jacksonville at Baltimore Noon
 N.Y. Jets at Buffalo Noon
 Atlanta at Cincinnati Noon
 Carolina at Houston Noon
 San Diego at Kansas City Noon
 Denver at Minnesota Noon
 Indianapolis at New England Noon
 New Orleans at Tampa Bay Noon
 San Francisco at Washington Noon
 Philadelphia at Arizona 3 p.m.
 Dallas at N.Y. Giants 3 p.m.
 Oakland at Seattle 3 p.m.
 PACKERS at St. Louis 7 p.m.

Monday, November 25

Pittsburgh at Miami 8 p.m.

WEEK 14

Thursday, November 28

Kansas City at Detroit 11:30 a.m.
 Washington at Dallas 3 p.m.

Sunday, December 1

Chicago at PACKERS Noon
 Pittsburgh at Baltimore Noon
 Tampa Bay at Carolina Noon
 Buffalo at Indianapolis Noon
 Cincinnati at Jacksonville Noon
 Arizona at Minnesota Noon
 N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia Noon
 Seattle at Denver 3 p.m.
 St. Louis at New Orleans 3 p.m.
 Houston at N.Y. Jets 3 p.m.
 Miami at Oakland 3 p.m.
 New England at San Diego 7 p.m.

Monday, December 2

San Francisco at Atlanta 8 p.m.

WEEK 15

Thursday, December 5

Philadelphia at Indianapolis 7 p.m.

Sunday, December 8

Denver at PACKERS Noon
 St. Louis at Chicago Noon
 Baltimore at Cincinnati Noon
 Jacksonville at Houston Noon
 N.Y. Giants at Miami Noon
 Atlanta at New Orleans Noon
 San Diego at Pittsburgh Noon
 Washington at Tampa Bay Noon
 Dallas at Arizona 3 p.m.
 N.Y. Jets at New England 3 p.m.
 Carolina at San Francisco 3 p.m.
 Buffalo at Seattle 3 p.m.
 Minnesota at Detroit 7 p.m.

Monday, December 9

Kansas City at Oakland 8 p.m.

WEEK 16

Saturday, December 14

Philadelphia at N.Y. Jets 11:30 a.m.
 San Diego at Chicago 3 p.m.

Sunday, December 15

PACKERS at Detroit Noon
 St. Louis at Atlanta Noon
 Baltimore at Carolina Noon
 New England at Dallas Noon
 Cincinnati at Houston Noon
 Indianapolis at Kansas City Noon
 Tampa Bay at Minnesota Noon
 New Orleans at N.Y. Giants Noon
 San Francisco at Pittsburgh Noon
 Washington at Arizona 3 p.m.
 Oakland at Denver 3 p.m.
 Seattle at Jacksonville 7 p.m.

Monday, December 16

Buffalo at Miami 8 p.m.

WEEK 17

Saturday, December 21

New England at N.Y. Giants 11:30 a.m.
 New Orleans at St. Louis 3 p.m.

Sunday, December 22

Minnesota at PACKERS Noon
 Chicago at Tampa Bay Noon
 Houston at Baltimore Noon
 Kansas City at Buffalo Noon
 Pittsburgh at Carolina Noon
 Indianapolis at Cincinnati Noon
 Atlanta at Jacksonville Noon
 Miami at N.Y. Jets Noon
 Arizona at Philadelphia Noon
 Seattle at Oakland 3 p.m.
 Dallas at Washington 3 p.m.
 Denver at San Diego 7 p.m.

Monday, December 23

Detroit at San Francisco 8 p.m.

GAME FACTS

Date – Nov. 24, 1996

Time – 7 p.m. (CDT)

Site – Trans World Dome, St. Louis

Seating capacity – 66,000

Television – ESPN with Mike Patrick and Joe Theismann

Radio – Packer Radio Network with Jim Irwin, Max McGee and Larry McCarren; KSD St. Louis with Gary Bender and Jack Snow; CBS Radio Network with Brad Sham and Pat Haden.

THE SERIES

The Rams lead the series 43-38-2 dating back to 1937 when the then-Cleveland Rams lost their first meeting with the Packers 35-7. Los Angeles became the new home of the Rams in 1946. In 1967 the teams met in the first Western Conference playoff game, which Green Bay won 28-7 in Milwaukee. That set up the "Ice Bowl" against Dallas the following week. The longest winning streak in the series is 11 games by the Rams from 1948 to 1953.

LAST MEETING

St. Louis 17, Green Bay 14
Sept. 3, 1995, at Green Bay

The Rams snapped the Packers 10-game winning streak at Lambeau Field behind a defense that produced four sacks and three turnovers.

Green Bay marched down the field on their opening drive, but was intercepted at the 1-yard line. Later in the half, Isaac Bruce blocked Craig Hentrich's punt and caught a pass for a touchdown on the next play for a 7-0 Ram lead. Brett Favre hit Mark Chmura to tie the game in the second half, but the Rams answered, going up 14-7 and intercepting Favre again to set up a 19-yard field goal. Favre found Charles Jordan to cut it to 17-14 with 1:36 left in the game but the Packers failed to recover their ensuing onside kick.

NFL RANKINGS

GREEN BAY	(through 10 games)	ST. LOUIS
4th	OFFENSE	28th
13th	rushing	20th
4th	passing	29th
2nd	DEFENSE	29th
7th	rushing	22nd
2nd	passing	28th

THE COACHES

Mike Holmgren
(3-1 vs. Rams)



Holmgren

Holmgren, 48, has the Packers off to their best start since the 1963 season and heading for their fourth consecutive playoff berth. Last year Holmgren guided the Packers to their first NFC Central Division title in 23 years and a berth in the NFC Championship Game for the first time since 1967. He is 9-2 against the NFC West since becoming head coach. In his spare time, Holmgren enjoys playing golf, reading history books and riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle.

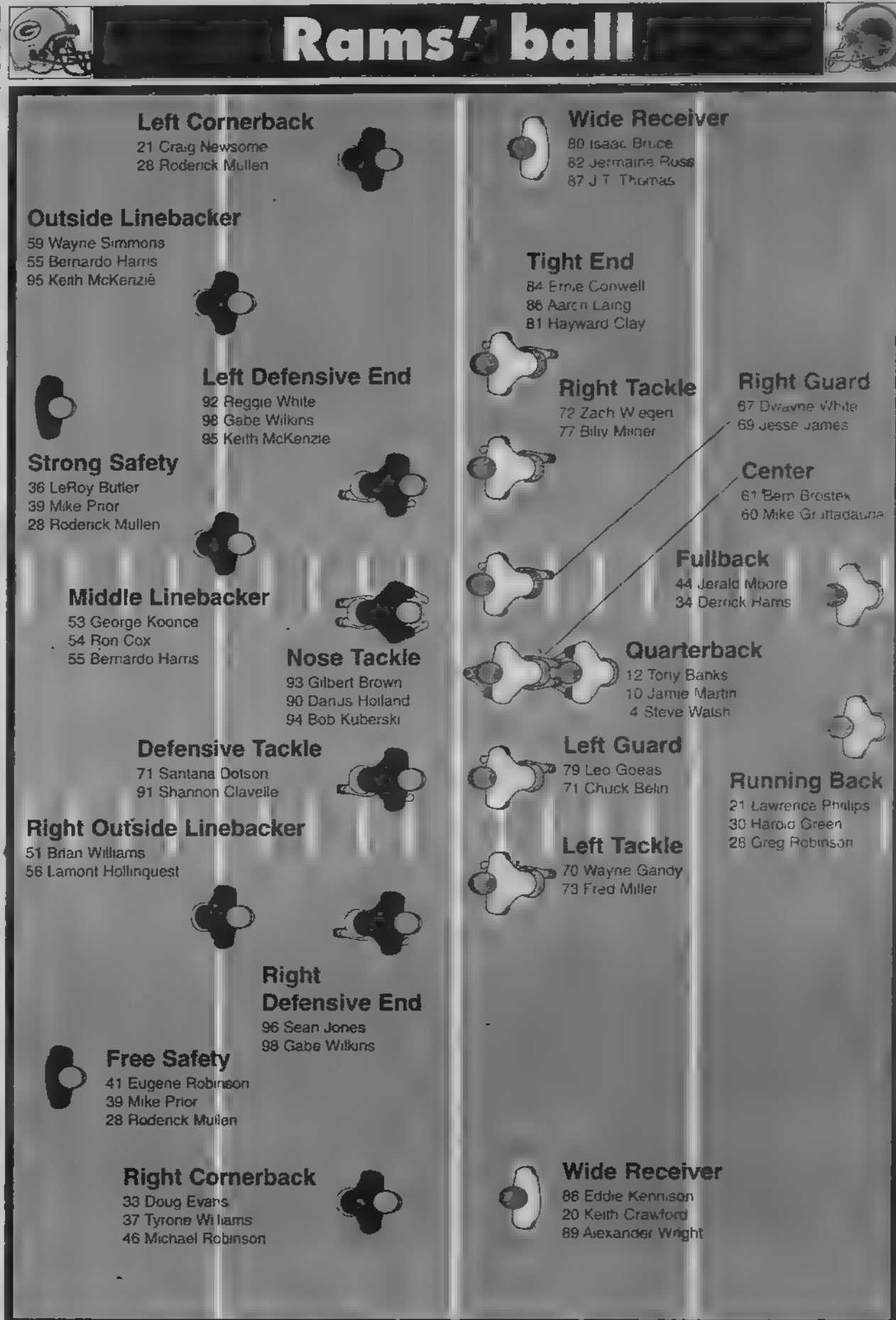
Rich Brooks
(1-0 vs. Packers)



Brooks

Brooks became the 19th head coach in Rams history in 1995 when he signed on after 18 seasons as head coach of the University of Oregon. His final year with the Ducks netted a Pac 10 conference championship in 1994 and a Rose Bowl appearance against Penn State. It also earned him several coaching honors. Brooks' ties to Oregon began when he played quarterback and defensive back there. Upon graduating, he coached a year at the prep level before returning to Oregon as defensive line coach. He became head coach in 1977 but in between had stints with UCLA, the Rams, Oregon State and the San Francisco 49ers.

Rams' ball



Rams' offensive stars



Tony Banks

- ☆ 1st quarterback taken in 1996 draft
- ☆ Only rookie currently starting at QB
- ☆ Played for Minnesota Twins Class A team



Isaac Bruce

- ☆ Had 119 catches for 1,781 yards in 1995
- ☆ Led NFL in receiving yardage after 10 games in 1996
- ☆ 33rd pick in '94 draft



Eddie Kennison

- ☆ NFL's top punt returners with 19.0 avg. after 10 weeks
- ☆ 18th pick in '96 draft
- ☆ On LSU 4x100 NCAA championship team

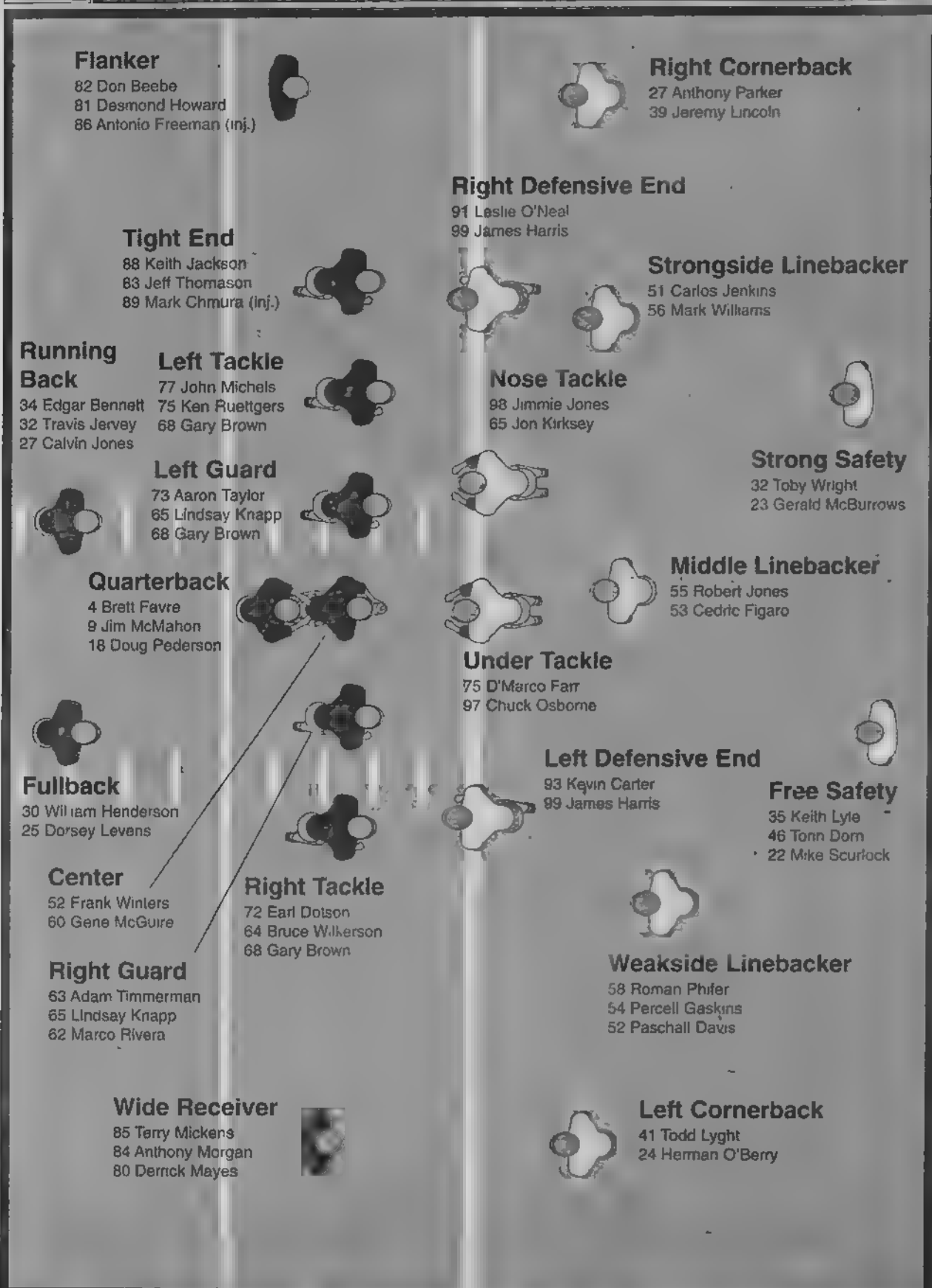


Lawrence Phillips

- ☆ 6th player taken in 1996 draft
- ☆ Key player for 2-time champion Nebraska
- ☆ Averaged 6.2 yards per carry as a collegian



Packers' ball



Rams still trying to find their way

By W. Keith Roerdink

After beginning the 1995 season 5-1, the St. Louis Rams won just five of their next 20 games and were 3-7 after 10 games played this season.

Off-season moves that let running back Jerome Bettis and defensive end Sean Gilbert go in draft day trades have backfired and first round pick Lawrence Phillips has yet to do enough on the field to quiet talk of his off-field exploits. Aside from a 59-16 pummeling of the Atlanta Falcons in which they excelled in every facet, St. Louis has been a struggling franchise.

Offense

Tony Banks was the first quarterback drafted in what was said to be a weak quarterback crop last spring but with every snap the former Michigan State slinger takes, he continues to improve and impress. When the Rams come around, and eventually they will, Banks' will be one of the main reasons.

Another reason will be Eddie Kennison, the Rams second of two first round picks. The Louisiana State product has flashed brilliance as a receiver and punt returner, leading the league with a 19.0 average after 10 games.

Opposite Kennison is Issac Bruce, who burst on the scene last season with 119 catches for 1,781 yards, the second highest single-season receiving yardage total in NFL history. Hardly a one-year wonder, Bruce is leading the league in yardage again.

Room for improvement? Look no further than the running game. Phillips and Harold Green both ran for 106 yards against Atlanta, but aside from that, this area's been a disappointment. Questions about his character dropped Phillips to the sixth overall pick and the Rams traded Sean Gilbert to Washington to move up and grab him. But after gaining 6.2 yards per carry in college, Phillips averaged just 3.1 yards per carry for 422 yards through ten games. Then again, he isn't running behind Nebraska's offensive line anymore. Bettis, meanwhile, was averaging 4.8 yards per carry for an NFL best 1,064 yards in Pittsburgh. Ouch.

Defense

St. Louis signed Leslie O'Neal and Robert Jones in the off-season to bolster their defense, but the moves haven't had quite the impact they would've liked.

O'Neal has been one of the league's top defensive ends over his career, but after replacing Gilbert, he's on pace for his lowest sack total since 1988. Kevin Carter, last year's No. 1 pick, has come on with six sacks in 10 games which matches last year's total. Tackle D'Marco Farr, however, has had a drop off. He had 11.5 sacks in 1995 but just two following the big win over Atlanta.

The linebacking corps is still led by Roman Phifer. He had 149 tackles last year and is on pace for close to 200 this season, proving he is one of the league's most underrated defenders. Jones is the team's second leading tackler, but hasn't made many big plays after being signed away from Dallas last March.

Free safety Keith Lyle has paced the secondary with five interceptions, tying him for the NFC lead after ten games. He's also heading for a second straight season of 100 tackles or more. Cornerbacks Anthony Parker and Todd Lyght have three interceptions each.

Special Teams

Kicker Chip Lohmiller has been reliable when called upon and punter Sean Landetta is one of the NFC leaders.

The return game is in good hands with Kennison leading the league on punt returns and teaming with J.T. Thomas to handle kicks. Former Packer Keith Crawford has been leading the Rams in special team tackles and teammate Antonio Gross has blocked two punts this season.

Rams' defensive stars



Roman Phifer

- ☆ Rams' leading tackler
- ☆ Second round pick in 1991 draft from UCLA
- ☆ Named after ex-Rams quarterback Roman Gabriel



Kevin Carter

- ☆ Led team with six sacks in first 10 games
- ☆ First career sack was last year on Brett Favre
- ☆ Was 1st defensive player picked in '95 draft



Keith Lyle

- ☆ Team leader with 5 INTs after 10 games
- ☆ Third round pick in 1994 draft
- ☆ 15 career INTs at the University of Virginia



Leslie O'Neal

- ☆ One of NFL's top ten all-time sack leaders
- ☆ Acquired from San Diego in the off-season
- ☆ Made 6th Pro Bowl following 1995 season



Packers roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	College
4	Brett Favre	QB	6-2	225	27	6	Southern Mississippi
9	Jim McMahon	QB	6-1	195	37	15	Brigham Young
13	Chris Jacke	K	6-0	205	30	8	Texas-El Paso
17	Craig Hentrich	P	6-3	200	25	3	Notre Dame
18	Doug Pederson	QB	6-3	215	28	3	Northeast Louisiana
21	Craig Newsome	CB	6-0	190	25	2	Arizona State
25	Dorsey Levens	FB	6-1	235	26	3	Georgia Tech
27	Calvin Jones	RB	5-11	205	25	3	Nebraska
28	Roderick Mullen	DB	6-1	204	23	2	Grambling
30	William Henderson	FB	6-2	248	25	2	North Carolina
32	Travis Jervey	RB	6-0	225	24	2	The Citadel
33	Doug Evans	CB	6-1	190	26	4	Louisiana Tech
34	Edgar Bennett	RB	6-0	217	27	5	Florida State
36	LeRoy Butler	S	6-0	200	28	7	Florida State
37	Tyrone Williams	CB	5-11	195	23	R	Nebraska
39	Mike Prior	S	6-0	208	33	11	Illinois State
41	Eugene Robinson	S	6-0	195	33	12	Colgate
46	Michael Robinson	CB	6-1	192	23	R	Hampton
51	Brian Williams	LB	6-2	235	23	2	Southern California
52	Frank Winters	C	6-3	295	32	10	Western Illinois
53	George Koonce	LB	6-1	243	28	5	East Carolina
54	Ron Cox	LB	6-2	235	28	7	Fresno State
55	Bernardo Harris	LB	6-2	243	25	2	North Carolina
56	Lamont Hollinquest	LB	6-3	243	26	3	Southern California
59	Wayne Simmons	LB	6-3	248	26	4	Clemson
60	Gene McGuire	C	6-4	300	26	4	Notre Dame
62	Marco Rivera	G	6-4	295	24	R	Penn State
63	Adam Timmerman	G	6-4	295	25	2	South Dakota State
64	Bruce Wilkerson	T/G	6-5	305	32	10	Tennessee
65	Lindsay Knapp	G/T	6-6	300	26	4	Notre Dame
68	Gary Brown	T	6-4	315	25	3	Georgia Tech
71	Santana Dotson	DT	6-5	285	26	5	Baylor
72	Earl Dotson	T	6-4	315	25	4	Texas A & I
73	Aaron Taylor	G	6-4	305	24	3	Notre Dame
75	Ken Ruettgers	T	6-6	295	34	12	Southern California
77	John Michels	T	6-7	290	23	R	Southern California
80	Derrick Mayes	WR	6-1	200	22	R	Notre Dame
81	Desmond Howard	WR	5-10	180	26	5	Michigan
82	Don Beebe	WR	5-11	183	31	8	Chadron (Neb.) St.
83	Jeff Thomason	TE	6-5	250	26	4	Oregon
84	Anthony Morgan	WR	6-1	200	28	6	Tennessee
85	Terry Mickens	WR	6-1	198	25	3	Florida A & M
86	Antonio Freeman	WR	6-1	190	24	2	Virginia Tech
88	Keith Jackson	TE	6-2	258	31	9	Oklahoma
89	Mark Chmura	TE	6-5	250	27	5	Boston College
90	Darius Holland	DT	6-5	310	23	2	Colorado
91	Shannon Clavette	DE	6-2	287	23	2	Colorado
92	Reggie White	DE	6-5	300	34	12	Tennessee
93	Gilbert Brown	NT	6-2	325	25	4	Kansas
94	Bob Kuberski	NT	6-5	295	25	2	Navy
95	Keith McKenzie	LB	6-3	242	23	R	Ball State
96	Sean Jones	DE	6-7	283	33	13	Northeastern
98	Gabe Wilkins	DT	6-5	305	25	3	Gardner-Webb

PRACTICE SQUAD

2	Eric Matthews	WR	5-11	170	24	R	Indiana
7	Kyle Wachholtz	QB	6-4	235	24	R	Southern California
19	Bill Schroeder	WR	6-2	198	25	2	Wisconsin-LaCrosse
40	Chris Hayes	S	6-0	200	24	R	Washington State
74	Walter Scott	DE	6-3	285	23	R	East Carolina

INJURED RESERVE (out for season)

16	Rob Carpenter	WR	6-2	190	28	5	Syracuse
23	Matthew Dorsett	CB	5-11	190	23	2	Southern
38	Brian Satterfield	FB	6-0	225	26	2	North Alabama
43	James Bostic	RB	6-0	225	24	2	Auburn
44	Chris Darkins	RB	6-0	215	22	R	Minnesota
50	Mike Arthur	C	6-3	290	28	6	Texas A & M
58	Mike Flanagan	C	6-5	290	23	R	UCLA
70	Jeff Miller	T	6-4	305	24	2	Mississippi
87	Robert Brooks	WR	6-0	180	26	5	South Carolina

Head Coach: Mike Holmgren (5th season)

Assistants: Sherman Lewis, offensive coordinator; Fritz Shumur, defensive coordinator; Larry Brooks, defensive line; Nolan Cromwell, special teams; Gil Haskell, wide receivers; Johnny Holland, defensive assistant/quality control; Kent Johnston (strength and conditioning); Jim Lind, linebackers; Tom Lovat, offensive line; Marty Mornhinweg, quarterbacks; Andy Reid, tight ends/assistant offensive line; Harry Sydney, running backs; Bob Valesente, defensive backs.



Rams roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	College
4	Steve Walsh	QB	6-3	210	29	8	Miami, Fl.
5	Sean Landetta	P	6-0	220	34	12	Towson State
8	Chip Lohmiller	K	6-3	220	30	9	Minnesota
10	Jamie Martin	QB	6-2	210	26	3	Weber State
12	Tony Banks	QB	6-4	225	23	R	Michigan State
20	Keith Crawford	WR	6-2	185	26	3	Howard Payne
21	Lawrence Phillips	RB	6-0	230	21	R	Nebraska
22	Mike Scurlock	CB	5-10	199	25	2	Arizona
23	Gerald McBurrows	S	5-11	206	22	2	Kansas
24	Herman O'Berry	CB	5-9	185	25	1	Oregon
27	Anthony Parker	CB	5-10	185	30	7	Arizona State
28	Greg Robinson	RB	5-10	212	27	4	Northeast Louisiana
30	Harold Green	RB	6-2	225	28	7	South Carolina
32	Toby Wright	S	5-11	215	25	3	Nebraska
34	Derrick Harris	RB	6-0	250	23	R	Miami, Fl.
35	Keith Lyle	S	6-2	209	24	3	Virginia
39	Jeremy Lincoln	CB	5-10	184	27	5	Tennessee
41	Todd Lyght	CB	6-0	189	27	6	Notre Dame
44	Jerald Moore	RB	5-9	229	21	R	Oklahoma
46	Torri Dorn	CB	6-0	200	28	6	North Carolina
51	Carlos Jenkins	LB	6-3	230	28	6	Michigan State
52	Paschall Davis	LB	6-2	225	27	1	Texas A&I
53	Cedric Figaro	LB	6-3	242	29	7	Notre Dame
54	Perrell Gaskins	LB	6-0	226	24	R	Kansas State
55	Robert Jones	LB	6-2	242	26	5	East Carolina
56	Mark Williams	LB	6-3	243	25	3	Ohio State
58	Roman Phifer	LB	6-2	239	28	6	UCLA
60	Mike Gruttadauria	C	6-3	295	23	1	Central Florida
61	Bern Brostek	G	6-3	300	29	7	Washington
65	Jon Kirksey	DT	6-4	345	26	1	Sacramento State
67	Dwayne White	G	6-2	315	29	7	Alcorn State
69	Jesse James	C	6-4	311	24	2	Mississippi State
70	Wayne Gandy	T	6-4	300	25	3	Auburn
71	Chuck Belin	G	6-2	305	25	4	Wisconsin
72	Zach Wiegert	T	6-4	315	24	2	Nebraska
73	Fred Miller	T	6-7	306	23	R	Baylor
75	D'Marco Farr	DT	6-1	280	25	3	Washington
77	Billy Minter	T	6-5	304	24	2	Houston
79	Leo Goeas	G	6-4	305	30	7	Hawaii
80	Issac Bruce	WR	6-0	180	23	3	Memphis State
81	Hayward Clay	TE	6-3	260	23	R	Texas A&M
82	Jermaine Ross	WR	6-0	196	25	2	Purdue
84	Ernie Conwell	TE	6-1	255	23	R	Washington
86	Aaron Laing	TE	6-3	255	25	2	New Mexico State
87	J.T. Thomas	WR	5-10	182	25	2	Arizona State
88	Eddie Kennison	WR	6-0	195	23	R	LSU
89	Alexander Wright	WR	6-0	195	29	7	Auburn
91	Leslie O'Neal	DE	6-4	270	32	10	Oklahoma State
93	Kevin Carter	DE	6-5	280	22	2	Florida
97	Chuck Osborne	DT	6-2	295	22	R	Arizona
98	Jimmie Jones	DT	6-4	290	30	7	Miami, Fl.
99	James Harris	DE	6-6	285	28	4	Temple

PRACTICE SQUAD

18	A.C. Tellison	WR	6-2	208	25	1	Miami, Fl.
59	Ed Stewart	LB	6-0	215	24	1	Nebraska
76	Tyrone Williams	DE	6-4	282	24	R	Wyoming

INJURED RESERVE

19	Billy Williams	WR	5-11	185	25	1	Tennessee
50	Antonio Gross	LB	6-4	235	30	7	North Carolina
57	Thomas Homco	LB	6-1	242	26	4	Northwestern
94	Rico Mack	LB	6-2	250	25	2	Appalachian State

RESERVE/PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO PERFORM

96	Jay Williams	*DT	6-3	280	25	2	Wake Forest
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Head Coach: Rich Brooks (2nd season)

Assistants: Johnny Roland, assistant head coach/running backs; Jack Reilly, offensive coordinator/quarterbacks; Willie Shaw, defensive coordinator; Nick Aliotti, special teams/secondary; Steve Brown, cornerbacks; Chris Clausen, strength and conditioning; Michael Gray, defensive assistant/quality control; Steve Greatwood, offensive line; Mike Martz, receivers; Don "Deek" Pollard, defensive line; John Ramsdell, tight ends; Dick Selcer, linebackers; George Warhop, offensive line.



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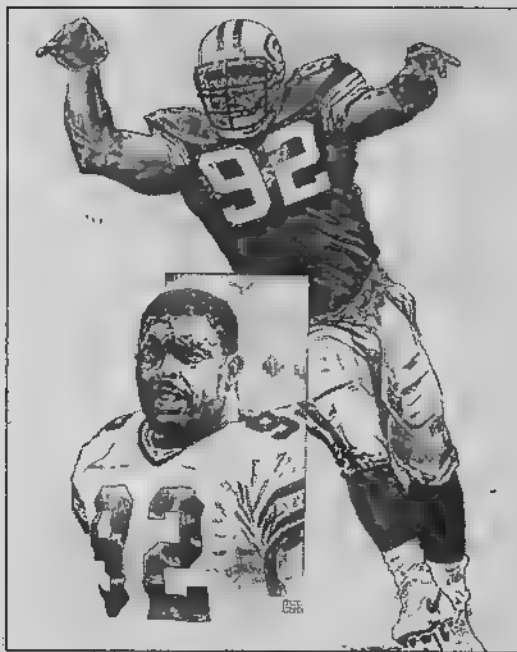
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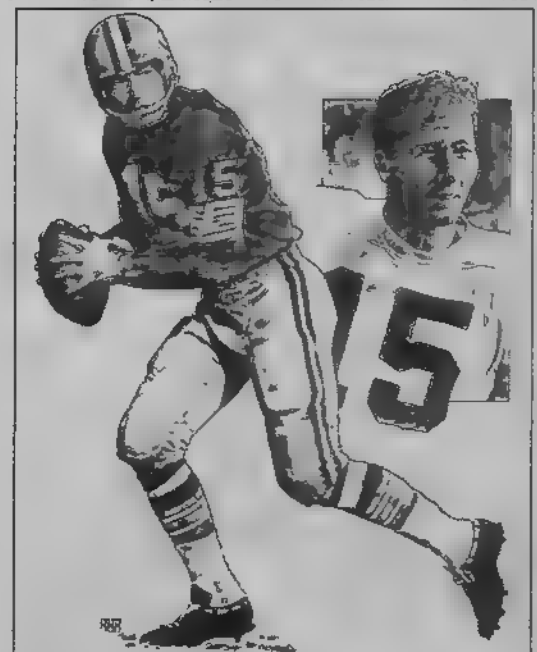
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#209



Small-town charmer

Trade from Rams to Packers couldn't have turned out better for Dale

By W. Keith Roerdink

Carroll Dale always liked small towns. He was born and raised in the tiny community of Wise, Va., and when he was traded from Los Angeles to the National Football League's smallest city in 1965, he couldn't have been happier.

"Being a small town person, getting traded to Green Bay was like a Christmas gift," the former receiver said. "If we would have had free agency at that time, I would have selected Green Bay even if they had made me the lowest offer salary wise, or weren't that good, just because I enjoyed small towns."

Of course the Packers were good. Very good. And that made getting traded from the Rams even better. Dale's impact was immediate and in his first year with the Packers, he helped them to their ninth world championship, a 23-12 defeat of the Cleveland Browns in front of the home crowd at Green Bay.

"It's probably my most memorable game," said Dale, who caught a 47-yard pass from Bart Starr for the first points of the game.

But there would be plenty of other good memories for the 6-2, 200 pounder, including a number of big-time games. Dale started Super Bowls I and II for the Packers, both victories, and came up huge in the 1967 Western Conference championship game against his former team, catching six balls for 109 yards and a touchdown. That victory set up the "Ice



Packer Report photo

Carroll Dale, who played eight years for the Packers, makes a diving catch in the end zone for a touchdown.

Bowl" against Dallas the following week and paved the way for Green Bay's Super Bowl II appearance.

His top individual performance during his eight years with the Packers came in 1969 against the Cardinals when he caught nine balls for 195 yards and two touchdowns.

"There's only one way to have fun and that was winning," Dale said. "And being on three world championship teams was really something."

Dale's final season was in 1972. He closed out his 13-year career with 425 catches for 8,079 yards and an impressive 19.0 yard average per catch. With his play-

ing days behind him, Dale returned home and was owner-operator of a coal strip mining operation for 17 years.

It was 1989 when a group formed in his hometown to pursue the idea of starting a football program at Clinch Valley College, a 1,200-student enrollment in Wise. Dale was the natural choice to seek out when the team was finally formed in 1991 and through the first two years of the program, he coached — what else — the receivers.

"It was fun, but I always had a problem being a spectator," Dale said. "I did enjoy working with the kids, of course."

Over the years, Dale became involved with more than just the football team and before he knew it, he was serving as the school's first full-time athletic director, charged with fundraising, overseeing all 11 of the school's sports teams and handling the budget.

"I never had any ambition to coach or be in college athletics," Dale said. "In fact, I probably had the ambition not to be. Playing all the years I did, I know that it's a tough life and being a competitive per-

son, I didn't know if I could deal with it. I could handle the wins and ties, but it's those losses."

Clinch Valley's football team must subscribe to that same way of thinking because over the last two seasons, they've lost just one regular season game and are 9-0 in 1996.

"We're ranked fourth nationally (in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Division 2) and we were 10-1 last year before losing in the playoffs," Dale boasts. "We had one young man sign as a free agent with Houston but he didn't make it and we have a running back this year who's scored a touchdown in 32 straight games."

But Clinch Valley isn't the only football team he keeps up on. Dale is still an avid follower of the Packers and has recently returned to Lambeau Field as an honorary captain for the Nov. 3 win over Detroit and as part of the Super Bowl championship teams that were recognized

SEE DALE PAGE 33



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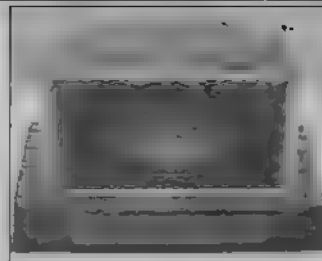
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Dale

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

at halftime of the Sept. 15 victory over San Diego. The cheers were nice to hear but Dale, who participates in the Packers' fantasy camps, would rather be playing.

"I sent a message to (Packer general manager) Ron Wolf saying I'd like to sign a multi-million dollar contract," Dale joked. "This, of course, was after (Robert) Brooks and (Antonio) Freeman went down. I figured I could run just one play and then I could get a fraction of my contract for (Cling) college. I was told to come take my test and they'd check my 40 (yard dash) time.

"At the fantasy camps I'll run a few patterns and Brett (Favre) will throw to us and he kiddingly asks if we think we can come back. But, you know, with those things you come in one day and you think you can run decently and then the next day you're stiff."

Should the Packers lose anymore receivers, though, they may start rethinking Dale's offer. He definitely would enjoy playing in today's pass-happy league. In 1970, he caught a career best 49 passes, but last year nine NFL players caught over 100 balls.

"It would have been great to play in those types of offenses," Dale said. "But the way we did it worked and we tried to help our defense by maintaining ball control. In my time, most of the time the people who caught a lot of balls were on losing teams that threw more because they were always trying to catch up. That's just the way it was."

But make no mistake about it, Dale wouldn't trade the time he played for anything.

"Coming to Green Bay was a dream come true," Dale said. "I enjoyed the outdoors and hunting and so forth and being able to play on and contribute to a championship team was just great."



Carroll Dale, right, poses with ex-defensive back Doug Hart (1964-71) when members of Green Bay's Super Bowl teams were honored on Sept. 15.



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letters to the editor



Keep nucleus intact

Dear Packer Report,

First of all, I would like to say I've been a Green Bay Packer fan my whole life. Since I was born in 1966 and by the time I was old enough to understand the game, the Glory Days were gone. Before Mike Holmgren and Ron Wolf came aboard, we only had two playoff appearances in 25 years, one in 1972 and in 1982 which was a strike shortened season. In these days of free agency, we need to keep the nucleus of the team. We watch the hated Dallas Cowboys sign their nucleus to long-term contracts; we watch the San Francisco 49ers sign Jerry Rice until he retires; so let us keep this nucleus together. And to many fans like myself, I am sure, they would agree that needs to start with the signing of Reggie White to a long-term contract that keeps him playing for one of the best teams in the NFL, the Green Bay Packers.

Also, we need to get Brett Favre's contract extension done, sign Wayne Simmons on to the team, and let's not forget Sean Jones and the other key players that make this team one of the best.

If we can keep our key players to long-

term contracts, fans like myself can relax and enjoy watching many more seasons like this one. We are on our way to the Super Bowl; let us keep the Green Bay Packers and the fans on that road.

Chad Yatzeck
Mountain Home AFB, Idaho

Poor decision

Dear Editor,

I've read and re-read the article from the Nov. 2 issue about the co-workers acquiring the 49ers playsheet ... and I'm still stewing about it!! My thoughts/questions for them:

The playsheet should have been returned immediately to Bill Walsh. PERIOD. What was there to think about? Right is right and wrong is wrong. Your actions were wrong, no questions, no excuses and no justification. ("If it was the playbook or something like that, I would have given it back. This was just 16 plays, so there wasn't too much harm in that")

Why would you (as a "lifelong Packer fan") do anything that could possibly tarnish the integrity of the Packers by putting this in their hands, thus raising questions by many critics? Don't you think the media, reporting "Packer Fan Returns Playsheet to 49ers" would have been a better story than the one you got? Or at least wouldn't you have felt better about it, deep-down-in-your-hearts? Are you really proud of your actions? Is this a story to tell your kids and grandkids? The Packers

don't need your help and don't need you as fans. They beat the 49ers fair and square without the playsheet. I'm proud of it and respect them for it. But I don't respect you or your actions. You've got nothing to be proud of and certainly no reason to grin as pictured with playsheet in hand. Enjoy your "fame;" it's fleeting. Right's right and wrong's wrong. You're wrong and I'm really ashamed.

P.S. — Hey, *Packer Report*, why did you even print the article? And a picture, too? Lots of kids read *Packer Report*. What does this teach them? There are plenty of stories to cover and heroes to write about that deserve space in your paper far more than this. At most, print the story, no picture, no names and condemn their lack of honesty. This ranks right up there with umpire spitting.

Kristine J. Stover
Prospect, Conn.

Get real, Skip

Packer Report,

It has been a while since I have written (since the *Packer Report* merger) and there are a few things I have read that prompt this letter.

First, I totally agree with the people writing in concerning those Nike commercials. Anyone who is truly a Packer fan knows Vince Lombardi would have never put up with the antics of Deion Sanders, and to suggest so is insulting.

Second, while I was sorry to see

Requirements

Letters to the *Packer Report* are welcome, but must be limited to 350 words. They must be signed with a name, address and phone number. The *Packer Report* reserves the right to reject or edit letters. Writers are limited to one letter each 30 days. The *Packer Report's* e-mail address is packerldr@aol.com. Typed letters can be faxed to (414) 497-6519, or sent by conventional mail to:

Packer Report
"Letters to the editor"
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Green Bay, WI 54304

Leshon Johnson go, it was because of Edgar Bennett and his consistent play that kept Johnson out of the lineup, the Packers held on to the right player.

And third, I don't know about you Packer fans, but I have had just about enough of that so-called football insider on ESPN Prime Monday. I am of course speaking about Skip Bayless on that Knights of the Roundtable segment. Now that Philly has beaten his beloved Cowpies, he proudly proclaims that Philly has the inside track. Yo, Skip! Guess you missed that second Monday night game of the season. To quote the second best QB in the game, "Get Real."

Michael Degnan
Lamar, Colo



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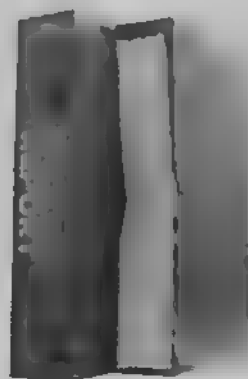
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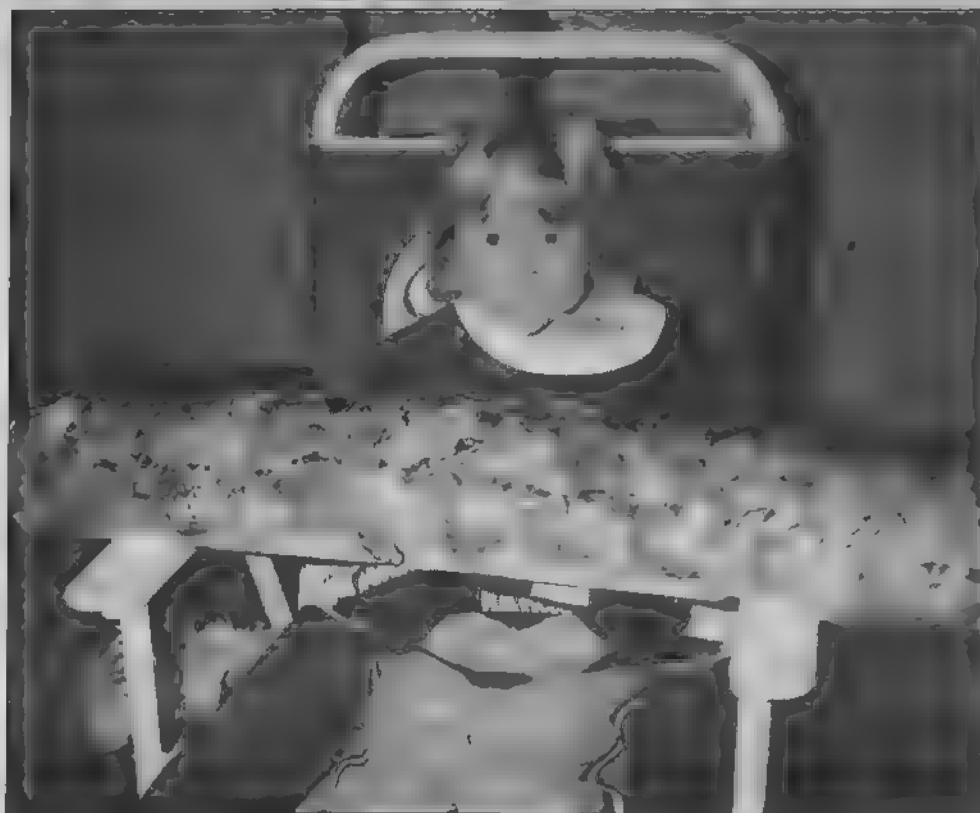
Dec. 1: Chicago Bears at Green Bay tailgate, 10 to 11:30 a.m., \$15 general public

Dec. 7: Packer Eve Party at The Bar in Green Bay

Dec. 8: Denver Broncos at Green Bay tailgate, 10 to 11:30 a.m., \$15 general public

Dec. 21: Packer Eve Party at The Bar in Green Bay

★ PACKER PEEWEE OF THE WEEK ★



Sandwiched

Ashley Lynn Roglich, 7, of LaCrescent, Minn., poses in her favorite team's colors prior to her grandparents' Packer party, which featured a party sub as its main course. The Packer Report will feature one peewee or one group of peewees per issue. Please include a non-returnable photo and any interesting story about the peewee, and send to: Packer Report, "Packer Peewee," 1317 Lombardi Access Road, Green Bay, WI 54304.

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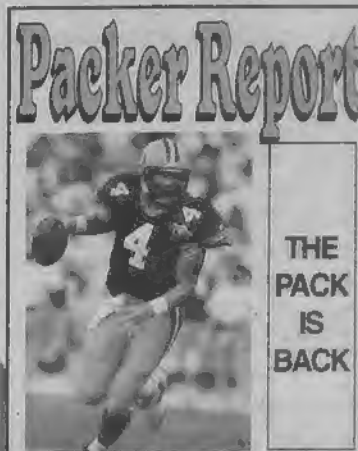
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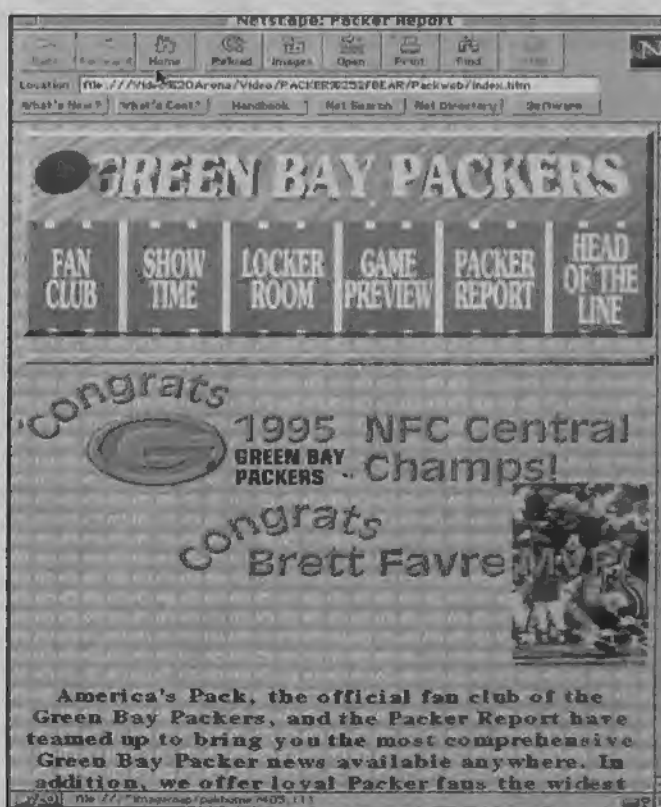
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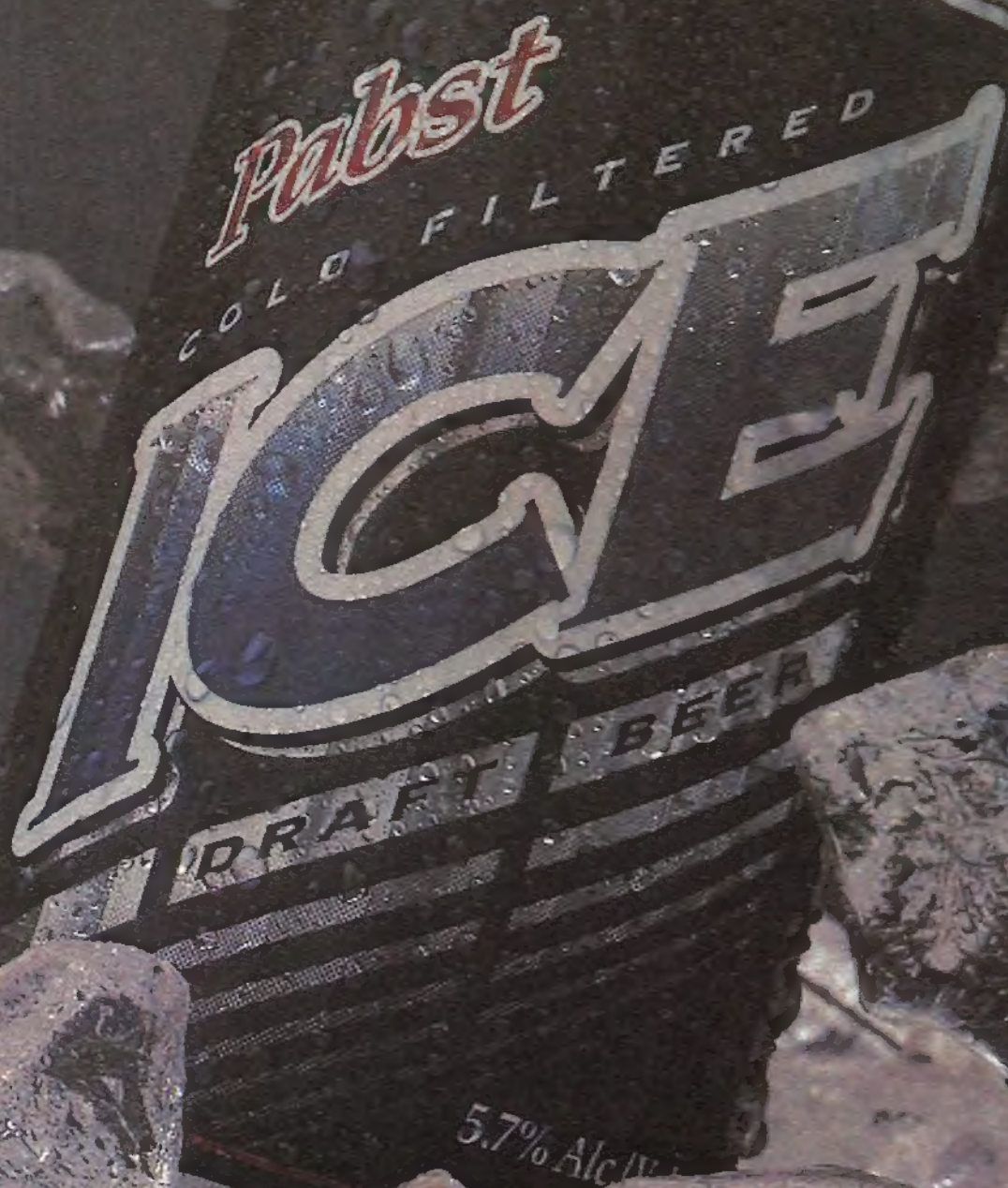
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